

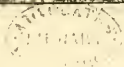
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X

LETTERS
FROM
ARCHIBALD, EARL OF ARGYLL,
TO
JOHN, DUKE OF LAUDERDALE.



PRINTED AT EDINBURGH,
M.DCCC.XXIX.

TO SIR WALTER SCOTT,
OF
ABBOTSFORD, BARONET,
THE PATRON OF WHAT IS USEFUL,
AND THE MODEL OF WHAT IS EXCELLENT,
IN THE LITERATURE OF HIS COUNTRY,
THIS VOLUME,
IS
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED
BY
THE EDITOR.

EDINBURGH, AUGUST, 1829.

THE BANNATYNE CLUB.

M.DCCC.XXIX.

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BARONET,

[PRESIDENT.]

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, K.T.

RIGHT HON. WILLIAM ADAM, LORD CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE JURY COURT.

SIR WILLIAM ARBUTHNOT, BART.

5 JAMES BALLANTYNE, ESQ.

SIR WILLIAM MACLEOD BANNATYNE.

LORD BELHAVEN AND STENTON.

GEORGE JOSEPH BELL, ESQ.

ROBERT BELL, ESQ.

10 WILLIAM BELL, ESQ.

JOHN BORTHWICK, ESQ.

WILLIAM BLAIR, ESQ.

REV. PHILIP BLISS, D.C.L.

GEORGE BRODIE, ESQ.

15 THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY.

JOHN CALEY, ESQ.

JAMES CAMPBELL, ESQ.

HON. JOHN CLERK, LORD ELGIN.

WILLIAM CLERK, ESQ.

THE BANNATYNE CLUB.

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ROBERT DUNDAS, ESQ.
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REGISTER.
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CHARLES FERGUSSON, ESQ.
ROBERT FERGUSON, ESQ.
LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR RONALD C. FERGUSON.
THE COUNT DE FLAHAULT.
- 35 HON. JOHN FULLERTON, LORD FULLERTON.
LORD GLENORCHY.
THE DUKE OF GORDON.
WILLIAM GOTT, ESQ.
SIR JAMES R. G. GRAHAM, BART.
- 40 ROBERT GRAHAM, ESQ.
LORD GRAY.
RIGHT HON. THOMAS GRENVILLE.
THE EARL OF HADDINGTON.
THE DUKE OF HAMILTON AND BRANDON.
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JAMES M. HOG, ESQ.

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THOMAS KINNEAR, ESQ. [TREASURER.]
THE EARL OF KINNOULL.
DAVID LAING, ESQ. [SECRETARY.]
- 60 THE EARL OF LAUDERDALE, K.T.
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BARON OF SCOTLAND.
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MAJOR-GENERAL STRATON.
SIR JOHN ARCHIBALD STEWART, BART.
HON. CHARLES FRANCIS STUART.
ALEXANDER THOMSON, ESQ.
- 95 THOMAS THOMSON, ESQ. [VICE-PRESIDENT.]
W. C. TREVELYAN, ESQ.
PATRICK FRASER TYTLER, ESQ.
ADAM URQUHART, ESQ.
RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE WARRENDER, BART.
- 100 THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON WRANGHAM.
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PREFACE.

IT is not proposed to prefix to these Letters any particulars, connected with the conduct or character of a statesman, so well known in the annals of his country, as ARCHIBALD, ninth Earl of Argyll. The Editor is not possessed of any new or interesting information on these subjects—a circumstance, which he is the less disposed to regret, as a History of the Illustrious Family, to which the Earl belonged, may be expected from the pen of a distinguished writer, eminently qualified, as well by talents and acquirements, as by access to the best sources of information, to supply the deficiency.

The orthographical errors cannot with truth be ascribed either to the Editor, or to the printer ; but are found in the original letters.

Letters from Archibald, Earl of Argyll,

To John, Duke of Lauderdale.

FOR YOUR LO:

The letter to my Lord Bal-
lenden is not to be sent
but w^t the papers.

MY LORD,

I CAME heire yesterday afternoone, where I found my Lady¹ in good health, and longing much for your Lo: arrivall. My wiffe, I thanke God; is better, and presents her service to you; but at night came Sir Robert Murray³ out of London of purpose to find me: he is the faithfullest and diligentest agent for his friend in the world, he had quate Grassum Colledge, and all his greater employ-

¹ Anne, daughter of Alexander, Earl of Hume, Countess of Lauderdale.

² Mary, daughter of James, Earl of Moray, Countess of Argyll.

³ First President of the Royal Society. See a very favourable character of him in Burnet's History—of late times he has been much ridiculed for his account of the generation of solan geese, in which he asserts that he had himself seen the young birds come out of their shells. He died 4th July, 1673. *Life of Ashmole.*

ments, to follow out what was laid on him by Henry M^cKies dispatch. I leave to himselfe to give your Lop. ane account what lenth he hath brought it ; only I am fully satisfied with any alteration his Ma^t hath been pleased to make, and with what is done, and if there be any thing in it wherin his Ma^tie is not cleare, I am allways willing to lay it at his Ma^ties feete, when I am restored, as well as now : but it will be time enough to speake of these things after your Lop. comes up. That which seems now the maine thing to be done for me, is to endeavoure to have all past the sealles as shoone as may be, and this I must leave to your Lo: care.¹ George Campbell is at Ed^r, and will goe about it as you command him, or failling of him, Johne Campbell of Fordy, the Receauer ; and I am still for passing the short signature first, if both cannot together ; but if my Lord Ballenden² be come from Ed^r, I know not what shall become of all. I can give no opinion, but leave it to your Lo: what to doe with the papers in that case. I have written to my Lord Tresurer,³ to thanke him for what he hath done for me, and to desire his concurrence in the passing the Exchequer and Seales. I was very glad to heare the account Sir Robert gives me of other things. I am troubled to see such weather, when you intend a journey, but I am hopfull it will blow out before you beginie it ;

¹ He was restored to his grandfather's title of Earl of Argyll, by patent under the great seal, 16th October, 1663, and the same day had a charter of the Earldom of Argyll, &c.

² William, Lord Bellenden, Treasurer-Depute.

³ John, Earl, afterwards Duke of Rothes, High Treasurer of Scotland.

and yet I long to see you heere. Your sone Johne¹ is well, and I am

Yours, as I am bound.

Highgate,
October 16, 1663.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Canogate, June 25, 1664.

MY LORD,

You have, inclosed, a draught of that commission, which is to cleare all questions betwixt the creditors of our family and me. My advocates advised me to have it passe the quarter seale only, as sufficient, and lesse noise and shooner done ; but I apointed another draught for the great seall, that your Lo: might choose, and they have drawn it for that seall only. If ether of these please your Lo: it is well ; if not, Johne Don can draw it over as you command him. The persones, if his Ma^{tie} please, may be my Lord Treasurer, the Earles of Twedale and Kincardine, my Lord Ballenden, the President of the Session, Register, and Justice Clerke, my Lord Staires, and the Laird of Nethry,² these nine, and any five of them a corum, and the clerke, Mr Thomas Young. The first day of ther meeting

¹ The Earl of Argyll's second son John, afterwards of Mamore, is here meant.

² John, afterwards 1st Marquis of Tweedale. Alexander, 2d Earl of Kincardine. Sir John Gilmour of Craigmillar, President. Sir Archibald Primrose of Carrington

to be before the 15. of No^{ber} nixt, and the commission to continue till the first of Aprill, sixty-six. The mater of it is verbatim out of my signatures, and such as my greatest enemies can say nothing against; but when it apears the estate will not reach so farre as they cry'd out in the beginning, then I know what I am to have will be gruged: but I resolve to be very fare from streaching his Ma^{ties} grace to me beyond his purpose, for tho by my signatures I could claime what I had, not as heire to my father, or grandfather, and my fiteene thousand pound beside, I will only claime my fiteene thousand pound for all; and tho his Ma^{tye} hath laid no burthen on the moveables, I resolve to allow the creditors M^c-Laine,¹ and the Cap^t of Clanronald's² debts, which is all that is considerable that is owing me, and which will amount to above ane

Register. Sir James Foulis of Collingtoun, Justice-Clerk. Sir James Dalrymple, then a Lord of Session, afterwards 1st Viscount Stair. Sir John Wauchope of Niddry.

¹ Probably Hector Maclean of Torloisk. For various acts of Parliament, containing minute particulars as to the Marquis of Argyll's debts, his feuds with his neighbours, and the settlement of his son's affairs, vide *Acta Parliamentorum Caroli II.* vol. VII.

² John Macdonald of Clanronald. He is thus mentioned in a MS. translation of the volume, termed the Red Book of Clanronald.—“Anno Domini, 1670. John Muidartach died at Erisca in Uist, and was interred in Tomore, leaving one son Donald, and three daughters. Mor, (*i. e.* Sarah) Lady Coll, Catharine, Lady Bara, and Ann, Lady Benmole. Donald, son of John Muidartach, lived sixteen years after his father's death, and these he spent in peace, sometimes at court, much esteemed, and sometimes at home. He died at Cannay in 1686, the same year that King Charles the Second died, and his body was interred in Thomor, in the same grave with his father. He left two sons and three daughters. Allan, the Laird, and Ronald. Mor, Janet, and Mary. Mor, daughter to John Macleod, being their mother, and Mor, daughter to Rory Mor Macleod, their grandmother by the father's side. Great was the loss of the Hebrides (Insigall) by the death of this Donald, as every one alive doth testify.”

hundreth or sixscore thousand merks ; and whatever lands have beene wrested from me this whill by decrets on non compearance, I will recover them for the creditors, not by strong hand, nor by decrets at hom, but before the ordinarie judge heere. And when all this falls short to the satisfaction of the creditors, I hope it will be thought just I stike by my fiftene thousand pound, for preservation of my family.

I doubt not to carie what I have before the councell, concerning the oppression the castle of Dunbarten uses in the mater of our cows ; the act of Councell made two yeares agoe,¹ without citing or hearing of parties, will be taken of, and then a legall way will be taken for the rest, wherein most of the Highlands of Scotland will be concerned : for I find they have not meddled with me only, as I supposed, and they have committed insolencies I will not follow, encase it come to a friendly agreement, as I have ground to believe it will. This is long enough to need ane excuse, and yet I cute it short, to be ready to goe presently w my Lord Duke² and my Lord Craford³ to Hammlitoun.

Pray have all the care of my L. Lowdon⁴ can be, his cause is just ; he is a pretty man, and I dare say no phanatike, and may be very serviceable to his Ma^{tie} in that part of the country : Sir Robert Murray can informe your Lo: about all concerns him. Adieu.

¹ See act in favours of the burgh of Dumbarton, Scottish Acts of Parliament, vol. VI. p. 23, and a paper concerning this affair in the Appendix.

² William, 3d Duke of Hamilton.

³ John, 15th Earl of Crawford.

⁴ "James, Earl of London, not concurring in the measures of government in the reign of King Charles II., went abroad, and died at Leyden in 1684."—Wood's *Peerage of Scotland*.

INCLOSED IN THE PRECEDING LETTER.

His Ma^{ties} Letter to the Commissioun wold bere, that having received ane address¹ from my Lord Argyll, touching ane dowbt moved be the creditours, whither the superiorities of blench and ward holdings should be conveyed be the Commissioners appoynted for setling the estait of Argyll to the saids creditours. That therefor his Ma^{tie} declairs, that it wes nevir his royall sens and meaning that the said superiorities should be conveyed to the creditours, bot should remayne as adjudged to the familie of Argyll, with the Erle and his aires mail, according to the trew intent and meanyng of the said commissioun; and that therefore the Creditours had no interest be vertew of the said Commission, to acclame the said superiorities, which, as concernyng the honour and interest of the Erle his familie, according to the s^d commissioun, and his Ma^{ties} royall declarationn y^a anent, is to remayn inseparably with the said familie.

TO THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Jully last.

MY LORD,

The shooner that commission passe the better; for if it could be

¹ Altered, in the Earl's hand, to "petition."

heere about the 12. or before the 15. of Agust, I would strive to have it passe the seall, and have ane meeting before I went out of toune, to summond all the creditours and we to the first of November ; and so ther would be so much time gained : for till November they cannot fall to the bussines, and ther must be tine for the summons. As to which of the two I would have passe his Ma^{ties} hand, it were not amisse that both did, for only one can be made use of heere. Sir Johne Nisbite¹ says ether is legall. He seemd first to incline to the quarter seall, and afterwards to the greate seall, so if only one can be signed, let it be the greate seall, but if it should meete with any stope, because of the vacancie, I would be at a losse ; yet the councell doth weekly give order to apend sealls, and I hope to get the same measure, only it may be said, these past the Exchequer, this did not ; yet it will but cost a word to my Lord Treasurer. This is but my owne objection, and if I mette with it, I would make use of the other, if I had both signed, before I moved it in publike : the duration is to Aprill 1666, the persons, Tres : Tres^r dep : E. Tweed : Kinc : P. Sess : J. Clerke, L. Register, Nethry, Staires, or any 5 of them. Adieu.

I have sent your Lo^p a paire of Scots pistolls.

Endorsed by the Duke,

“ last of July 1664, E. of Argyll.”

¹ Sir John Nisbet of Dirleton, afterwards King's Advocate.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Inveraray, Sept. 20. 64.

MY LORD,

I shall have little to say from this till after the 11. of the next month, which is the diet of the Justices of Peace. I find our neighbours keepe frequent meetings, and discourse much of stures they expect, and doe buy store of gunes, swords, powder, and lead: I desire to know how ther frequent meetings contrarie to law will be lookt on, and how I shall carie to those refuse to come in to accept to be Justices of Peace; whether I may in publike advise forbear- ing of meetings, unlesse the occasion be knowen. I have hitherto forborne all legall citations against any neighbours I have to doe with, lest that might be any excuse for any untoward course they take. I find ther is paines taken to spread reports as if I ether neglected, or discountenanced his Ma^{ties} service, but by gods grace the contrare shall apeare. I will doe what I can, tho I get litle helpe, for I am forced to write to the Archbishops of Glasgow,¹ that ether the Bishops or some from him come heere to look after his Ma^{ties} concernments in the church. If against the eleavnth of the next month ther could be somewhat from his Ma^{tie} to me, laying his com-

¹ Alexander Burnet.

mands upon me in termes that I might communicate, with somewhat requiring obedience to me, in his Ma^{ties} name, in such things as I desire to be done, by command from him, inviting all to a hearty concurrence in his service, and giving some certification against such as I shall complaine of, it may very much contribut to the advancement of his Ma^{ties} service, and make both friends and neighbours stand the more in aw. I beg a returne of this. Adieu.

Remember the commission when you can.

TO THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAIL, LORD
SECRETARY OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I receaved your Lop: yesternight about the Provest,¹ and he is perfectly satisfied with the returne I gave him. I saw the copie of my L. M'Donald's last,² and I am glad it apeares so cleirly, under his owne hand, that I have given no body any ground of complaint since I came to the country: but that it displeases some that I endeavour to make the country peaceable. I wish my L. Com:³ light

¹ Probably Sir Andrew Ramsay, provost of Edinburgh from the year 1662 to 1672, and much favoured by the Duke of Lauderdale.

² Æneas, Lord Macdonell, so created for his loyalty during the Commonwealth. He left issue a daughter, married to James Montgomery of Coylsfield, son of Alex. sixth Earl of Eglinton. His title, being limited to the heirs-male of his body, became extinct at his death.

³ John Earl of Rothes, the King's High Commissioner.

on such letters as come heere, as I doubt not he may; ther will be more stuffe in them. I have offered to him to snape M^cNachtan's letters, after they passe this, but I have not yet order for it. My L. Seaforth, Tarbet, and Cromarty¹ are come to toune about Bal-lengouns² bussines; my Lord Atholl and Tillibairne³ about Weeme⁴ and the M^cGregors; my Lord Murray and Duffus,⁵ about M^cEntosh and Lochyall.⁶ Thus highland matters are to be much of my L. Com. worke for a whill. I wish they had not come on so throng; but I hope all shall be well, and I shall still give your Lop. ane account once in two posts. This day the Councell proceeded against the prentises engaged in the tumult;⁷ one is banished the king-

¹ Kenneth, 3d Earl of Seaforth. Sir George Mackenzie, 1st Earl of Cromarty. Sir John Urquhart of Cromarty.

² David Ross of Balnagoune.

³ John, Earl, afterwards Marquis of Atholl. John, Lord Tullibardin, his eldest son.

⁴ Alexander Menzies of Weeme, afterwards created a Baronet.

⁵ Alex. 4th Earl of Moray. Alex. 1st Lord Duffus.

⁶ See "Act and Decreet in favour of Laeblan M^cIntosh of Torcastle against Ewan Cameron of Lochyeld," as explanatory of the feud in question. Acts of Par. vol. VII.

⁷ "About this period, a tumult of a very singular nature happened in Edinburgh. We have not been able to discover the smallest vestige of its original cause; its more immediate one was somewhat extraordinary. A combination had been formed (from what motive we know not) among the whole shopkeepers in Edinburgh to keep their shops shut.¹ This resolution they persisted in for two successive days. The confusion which, in a great city, behoved necessarily to flow from so whimsical and perverse a combination, may be easily conceived. A tumult arose; and it would seem that some

¹ "But what brave spirit could be content to sit in his shop with a flapet of wood, and a blew aprone before him, selling methridatum and dragon's water to visited houses, that might pursue feats of armes?"—*The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, Act I. Scene 3.

dome, one the toune, one or two put in some part on the Commisioner, and the rest are to be on ther knees before the Councell. The King's Advocate hath compeared for his Maties interest in the revaluation of Cowell, and that bussines is not like to be worth a second journey to my L. Montrose.¹ As shoone as ther is a close your Lop: shall know it. Adieu.

Edr Jan^r 31.

65.

All I have procured of my L. Com: for the Earle of Loudoun is, that he shall not be the first fallen upon ; pray let me, if his Matie will allow, to see a testificate of his innocencie, and if that will procure any delay.

of the rioters had proceeded to very unwarrantable measures. The privy council assembled—they required the magistrates to command the citizens to open their shops instantly, and, if they failed to comply, to break them open by force. In consequence of this order, the tumult was appeased. Sundry rioters were committed to jail ; and a report upon this affair was laid before his majesty, which, it is to be regretted, is not inserted in the records of the privy council. The king, by a letter of his to the privy council, appears to have been much displeased. He complains, that the magistrates, by keeping their own shops shut, provoked the people to uproar ; that afterwards they were very remiss in appeasing the tumult ; that, however, he was willing to consider this riot as the inconsiderate sally of insolent young men ; and therefore his Majesty inclined, *that the prisoners should not be put to death, but be subjected to such arbitrary punishment as the Privy Council should think fit.* Several of the rioters were accordingly banished for life.”—ARNOT'S *History of Edinburgh*, p. 142.

¹ James, 2d Marquis of Montrose. He had a charter of the Lordship of Cowal, forfeited by the Marquis of Argyll, 21st August 1661.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Edr Febr 4—65.

MY LORD,

You will perceave, by the inclosed copies, that ther hath endeavours beene used to bring my Lord Seaforth and me into termes of friendshiphe ; and ended I did hearken to it, knowing the advantage it might be to his Ma^{ties} service, and how farre it might contribute to the peace of the country. But tho I be content to live in gen^l friendshiphe with every body, yet I resolve not to enter into any solem^e tys of owning other mens quarles, nor yet their just interests, wherein I am not concerned, without both his Ma^{ties} leave, and your Lo: advice ; farre lesse to renew any thing that talkes of religion, for I resolute to subscribe no covenants. I say not this to reflect on any have made ane offer of friendshiphe to me ; for, if your Lo: allow me, I resolute not only to enter into friendshiphe with the Earle of Seaforth, but to endeavoure the same betwixt the Earles of Caithnesse¹ and Murray, and him : and I leave it to the Earle of Atholl to tell how farre I have beene ready to entertaine friend-

¹ George, 6th Earl of Caithness. His wife, Lady Mary Campbell, was sister to Lord Argyll.

shipe with him, on the other hand. And ended, unlesse animosities be laid asid, his Ma^{tie} cannot be serued as he ought to be. *I shall wish your Lo.*¹ The Earle Seaforth, it seems, desires not to have his willingnesse of friendship with me talked of, till some little particulars that are betwixt us be settled in a friendly way; and, it may be, till he be sure I be in friendship with him, and therefore I shall desire to give him no occation to chang his mind, by any bodys knowing of this, save your Lo: only I will not fail to let my Lord Commissioner know how I proceed in the mater; so your Lo: needs give him no account of it. I had lettres yesternight from Argyllshire, wher all is, I thanke god, very quiet; and a letter from M'Leane, shewing me he had taken a fellow had committed a pitifull murder, and I have sent to put him into Dunsteffenage, till I goe to the country, for I resolve not to suffer any Deput to take any lives in my absence, that I may the better know what is done. We have a greate storme heere, but in Argyllshire ther is only blake frost, and in some places plowing and delving.

Pray have a care to procure Robine Andrew his remission in time, lesst by claiming bake his mony, he losse his necke; and it [is] as just he ow himselfe to his Ma^{ties} grace as Sir George his avarice; your Lo: knows how I come to be concerned. Adieu.

¹ Through the words in Italics a line is drawn.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARY OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I have seene these letters of my Lord M'Donalds, which are so good commentaries upon themselves, that I need say no thing ; only it is cleare what paines some take to misconstrue every thing I doe : but if his Ma^{tie} could see all his subjects hearts as well as these letters, I assure your Lop: he should find all my actions tend to his service, as fare as I have ether skill or power. It hath of late beene told me by some, betwixt jest and earnest, that in endeavouring the peace of the Highlands, I secure my owne interest ; and treuly I thinke in the obedience of his Ma^{ties} laws, the security of every man's property is bound up, and so fare my concernment is necessarily included : but whill his Ma^{tie} is pleased to accept of my service, I valow not mens discourses to my prejudice ; for if I endeavoured to set men by the eares, they might justly say worse of me. I thinke it were not amisse to try of my L. M'Donald, from his Ma^{tie}, what his opinion is, how to setle the highlands, and in particulare M'Entosh and Lochyall ; it may be he would yet shew more disingenuity, if it be possible.

Since my last the processe betwixt the E^l Seaforth and Ballengoune hath been before the councell, and my L. Seaforth assoillied, and Ballingoune put into the castle ; but is let out this day. My L. Seaforth and I have mette, and since, my L. Murray with us,

and we have all promised to lay aside former animosities, and to live in friendship, and not to obstruct his Ma^{ties} service in the hands of one another. Lochyall is come to toune, and hath beene with my L. Com^r. When any thing is done your Lop: shall know. My L. D. Hamiltoune presses hard for mony, but I have not power till these signatures passe.

I thinke to goe from this to Argyll within a fortnight, and to be bake about the first of May ; but I will not goe till my L. Com^r allow me : but I believe all our highland treists will be over before then. Adieu.

Ed^r Febr 14.

65.

If my L. M^cDonald come heere he will obstruct all agreement, what he can, but a faire word from his Ma^{tie} will keepe him as long as you please, and I am quite with him.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

The delay of the passing of these signaturs is like to breed some mistake about the payment of that mony for Arkinlas forfeiture,¹

¹ James Campbell of Ardkinglass, was an active instrument under the Marquis of Argyll, in promoting the success of the Covenant, and the measures of his own clan.

for I neither promised, nor can I pay the mony, till young Arkinlas be reabilitate, and my Lord Duke aprehends I delay all of purpose to disapoint his payment, which I am very farre from. Wherefore I entreate your Lo: to move the mater to his Ma^{tie} as shoone as your Lo: can doe it conveniently ; for I assure your Lop: young Arkinlas is a person his Ma^{ty} may trust, and was never in any publike business, being yet not past one and twenty yeares of age, or therabout : and I see not, seeing my Lord Duke Hamiltoune is to be satisfied by his rehabilitation, what prejudice ther can be in it. Upon the contrare, it will be a meanes of peace and friendship amongst a greate many concerned. I intend, God willing, to goe homwards to morrow ; but before I goe, I shall trouble your Lop: with one line more. Adieu.

Ed^r March 8.

65.

MY LORD,

Your Lo^s of the 9 instant overtooke me heere yesternight, and I returne you many hearty thanks for those papers of Arkinlas. I shall now satisfie my L. Duke Hamiltoune ; and realy his Ma^{ties} grace in this will very much satisfie the country heere, and, I dare answer, all that family will be very thankfull and usfull in what-

See the Marquis's trial for many atrocious murders, and other crimes, laid to his charge, in the year 1661. The Duke of Hamilton procured "an act and decreet" against him and others, for ravages committed in the Isle of Arran. *Acta Par. Car. II.* vol. VII. p. 248.

ever services his Ma^{tie} can find them capable of ; for I must say it, I find none in the country more willing to obey all his Ma^{ties} commands ; tho' I hope all will, and must doe duty. And if now his Ma^{tie} were graciously pleased to pardone the old man, he is very sencible of his faults, and we should then in this shire have nothing but his Ma^{ties} grace to remember us of the late rebellion. If your Lo^p think it fitte to move it, I shall send your Lo a remission to be signed. I hope his Ma^{tie} will look on it but as a part of that grace he hath intended, in that he hath already done.

As I tooke my leave of my Lord Commissioner, he shew me a letter he had from your Lo: to which I could give no other answer but that he was sure of my concurrence in whatever was his Ma^{ties} service ; the officers of state had seene it, and when his Grace and they had resolved, he knew what would be my opinion. He propounded my stay ; but I was necessarily engaged to come this lenth, and so he gave me leave. I thinke to be at Ed^r before the end of the next month, and then your Lo: shall heare from me. Whatever your Lo: writes to that persone you name, will serue me, and when I return I will call for it.

The Archbishope of Glasgow spoke to me of some debts dew by my father to the Toune and Hospitall of Glasgow ; I told him a commission appointed by his Ma^{tie} was to site shortly, and would pay as farre as the estate would goe, and I doubted not would have special consideration of such creditors as he would recommend. Notwithstanding whereof, I heare some addresse to his Ma^{tie} is intended ; but I hope his Ma^{tie} will leave all equally to the commis-

sion till he heare from them, otherways he will be troubled with addresses from all the creditors.

I gave your Lo: ane account all ready of the bussines betwixt McEntosh and Lochyall; and tho' it be not ended yet, I am not desperatè it will ende shortly. I forgote to tell your Lo: that Tarbet had renounced to me a service and decreete of improbation, whereby he intended to defraud me of what McLeane was resting me, so that I thinke McLeane and I shall setle without going to law. My wiffe presents her humble service to your Lo. Your sone Johne, if any aske him if he be ane English man, he puts his hand to his bakeside, and says, ther. Adieu.

Inveraray,
March 20,
65.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I had a letter two days agoe from the Archbishope of St Andrews,¹ wherein he desirs my opinion about a bishope for Argyll; but I am to be so shortly at Ed', that what I have written to the Archbishope of Glasgow will serue till I be ther. I find in Arkinlas bussines we are better then we thought, and I am confident he

¹ Archbishop James Sharp.

shall deserue it. The Bishope of the Illes¹ pretends a right of property to the Ile of Canina, and did endeavour to put himselfe in possession two yeares agoe. I did not at first understand the bussines, and I was so tender in it, that first I cald my advocates, and made them debate it with him before me. After that, I undertooke the bishope before my Lord Staires, as a friend to both; he would give no opinion, because he was to judge in it; but I was glad he should heare us, for the bishope complaines a litle severely, and threatens to enforme his Ma^{tie} that he is oppressed, because I alledge I possesse. The case is, I have a few charture from the then bishope, without diminution of the rental, with consent of cleane and chapter, and a seasine, and a confirmatione from his Ma^{tie}, with forty two yeares unenterupted possession, and the few dutys discharged by two or three bishops. I ended with this, that it was to be none of my 15000^{lb}, but I was countable not to imbesell the estate to the prejudice of the creditors; but what the Session, or the commission, or the creditors, would allow me, I should doe; and so we parted. If any complaint be made, there is no more ground for it but what I tell your Lo. I have had a letter from the E. T.,² and I am much for the old way of taxation, beyond any other way; and whatever is necessarie to lay on for his Ma^{ties} service, your Lo: may be sure I will be for it very heartily. Adieu.

Inveraray,
April 7,
65.

¹ Robert Wallace.

² Probably the Earl of Tweeddale.

The way of taxation will fall haviest on the western shires, but, gen^{ly}, it is the best way.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Ed: June 1, 65.

MY LORD,

I have delayed to trouble your Lo: all this last weeke, till I gote the inclosed petition framed, for a rise to the letter I need from his Ma^{tie}, whereof I have sent a rude draught; likeways I have to get ended with my brother;¹ but I hope the Earle of Tweedale and my Lord Staires, who is now in towne, will get it done; if not, I hope to stike at nothing shall be thought unreasonable; and it is no small satisfaction to me that your Lo: hath not found me to blame in what is past. The bussines of our bishope and commissare sleepes till the archbishops come to towne. My wiffe and I intend to morrow to sie Brunstone; and if Highgate were within ane hundreth miles, we should not sleep one night where we were another, till we saw it. Adieu.

¹ Lord Niel Campbell of Armaddie. It is surprising enough, considering the principles of his family, both religious and political, that his second son, D^r Archibald Campbell, was consecrated a bishop of the episcopal church of Scotland, at Dundee. 25th August, 1711.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARY OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

If it be possible, pray helpe me to that I desire in the inclosed, for we are much put to it this yeare for want of market for our cows. Just now I heare all our neighbouring braes are full of fiery crosses, as the aray is in case of allarme,¹ upon M^cEntosh march towards Lochaber. I wish it had beene prevented, for it will very much unsettle the Highlands; but I doe not expect many stroakes betwixt the partys. Adieu.

Inveraray, August 23, 65.

¹ "This mode, by which the Highland chieftains convoked their clan to arms, is, I apprehend, of greater antiquity than their conversion to Christianity; with this difference only, of a change of symbol. Anciently, when the chief desired to assemble his clan, he killed a goat with his own sword, and dipped a half-burned stick in the blood. This he gave to one of his vassals, who bore it with all dispatch to the next village, where the first person he met was obliged, by the feudal customs, to relieve him, and carry forward this summons to arms; and thus it was carried from village to village through the chieftain's domains. Upon their conversion to Christianity, the priests would no doubt discover, in the killing of a goat, a species of heathen sacrifice. It was proper that a symbol should be adopted more analogous to their new religion: and what so suitable as the Cross, which, under the splendid name of the Labarum, blazed in the heavens, conducting the Christian emperor to victory and glory? A slight pole, with a bit of stick infixed in the figure of a cross, burnt at the ends, was substituted in the place of that dipped in goat's blood; and this ceremony was performed even in the late rebellion. There were two sorts of coronoch: that properly so called was the dirge which accompanied the deceased to their grave; the other was a sort of war-song, or dismal howl, which the women set up on seeing the fiery cross,

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARL OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I doute not but you have heard of M^cEntoch going to Lochaber, to possesse himselfe of that lands of Glenluy and Locharchaig, which Lochyall keeps from him by strong hand. The Earle of Murray endeavoured to agree them, but could not, and returned home not pleased; yet M^cEntoch having granted Lochyall a cessation, the Earle of Murray write to me, and offered to meete me at the place of treaty in Lochaber, to see if we could agree, but have no command frome my L. Com. I would not medle, so nether did my L. Murray. *I confesse*¹ M^cEntoch had no assistance but his owne friends and tenants, and some few of my L. Huntleys,² so that when Lochyall and he mett, they were very neare a like number. They have treated long, and have had many renewed cessationes, and at last are towards a setlement, for young Glenurchy,³ who is a tryster, and

from the anxiety they entertained about the safety of their husbands and friends in the approaching hour of battle."—ARNOT'S *Criminal Trials*, p. 87.

¹ Blotted out.

² George, fourth Marquis of Huntly, afterwards created Duke of Gordon.

³ Sir John Campbell of Glenorchy, afterwards created Earl of Breadalbane.—In the MS. Memoirs of Sir Ewan Cameron, many curious details as to this feud are recorded. Macintosh had a body of 1500 men; Lochiel had 900 men armed with guns, broadswords, and targets, "and 300 men, who had bows in place of guns; and it is remarkable that these were the last considerable company of bowmen that appeared in the Highlands. In the meantime, the Earl of Breadalbane, who was cousin

upon the place with 200 men, writes to me that on Sunday last they were within two thousand five hundred marks of the prise, and were nixt to treat of the termes of payment and security ; so

german to the chief, and a person of extensive genius and vast capacity, having resolved to interpose in the quarrel, marched into Lochaber, at the head of 300 men, and offered himself as a mediator. He was well acquainted with the tempers, capacities, interests, and views of the parties, and knew how to make the proper use of it ; but whether he applied first to Lochiel or Macintosh, is what I am not informed of ; but certain it is, that Lochiel, in consequence of his former resolution, detached Allan Cameron of Essacht with a strong body of choice men, to surprise and attack the enemy on the very night that Breadalbane arrived." It appears from this account, that the mediator threatened to join the party most inclined to peace, not only with his own forces, " but also would bring all the power that Argyle was master of, with his own, into the quarrel : and he thereupon showed a commission he had from the Earl of Argyle to that purpose." The agreement was concluded on the 20th of September, 1665, about 360 years after the commencement of the quarrel. The MS. above quoted contains a most minute detail of the conflict of Achdalew, which is interesting even in the abridgement of Pennant. Sir Ewan's extraordinary adventure with a stout Englishman is thus related :—" It was his chance to follow a few that fled into the wood, where he killed two or three with his own hand : the officer who commanded the party had likewise fled thither, but concealing himself in a bush, Lochiel had not noticed him. This gentleman, observing he was alone, started suddenly out of his lurking place, and attacked him in his return, threatening, as he rushed furiously upon him, to revenge the slaughter of his countrymen, by his death. Lochiel, who had also his sword in his hand, received him with equal resolution. The combat was long and doubtful ; both fought for their lives ; and as they were both animated by the same fury and courage, so they seemed to manage their swords with the same dexterity. The Englishman had by far the advantage in strength and size, but Lochiel exceeding him in nimbleness and agility, in the end tript the sword out of his hand ; but he was not allowed to make use of this advantage, for his antagonist, flying upon him with incredible quickness, they enclosed, and wrestled till both fell to the ground in each other's arms. In this posture, they struggled and tumbled up and down, till they fixed in the channel of a brook, betwixt two narrow banks, which then chanced

that is like all will end peaceably. M'Coull hath sent to desire to speake with me, and I have yeilded to it. These agreements, I hope, will breake all the broken men. My wife mends slowly, yet I hope, God willing, is in the way of recovery. Adieu.

Inveraray, Sept. 21, 65.

Begin heerr.

I received this morning two from you that came to Ed^r with H. Mackie ; if I get not a warrand about selling cows, I will have ill paid rents this yeare. Melgum¹ will give you his owne returne :

to be dry. Now Lochiel was in a most dismal and desperate situation, for being undermost, he was not only crushed under the weight of his antagonist, (who was an exceeding big man,) but likewise sore hurt and bruised by many sharp stones that were below him. Their strength was so much exhausted, that neither of them could stir a limb ; but the Englishman, by the advantage of being uppermost, at last recovered the use of his right hand ; with it he seized a dagger that hung at his belt, and made several attempts to stab his adversary, who all the while held him fast ; but the narrowness of the place where they were confined, and the position they were in, rendered the execution very difficult, and almost impracticable. While he was so strictly embraced, he made a most violent effort to disengage himself ; and in that action raising his head, and stretching his neck, Lochiel, who by this had his hands at liberty, with his left suddenly seized him by the right, and with the other by the collar, and jumping at his extended throat, which he used to say God put in his mouth, he bit it quite through ; and kept such hold of his gripe, that he brought away his mouthful. This, he said, was the sweetest bit he ever had in his lifetime." It appears from the MS. that the Duke of Lauderdale was ever an enemy to Lochiel. This brave and worthy knight died of a high fever, at the age of eighty-nine. His portrait, very dark-complexioned and handsome, is in the possession of Mr Cameron of Lochiel.

¹ Alexander Murray of Melgum.

he is gone from this. All my part of these canone shall be his Ma^{ties}, at any rate his Ma^{ties} pleases, and Melgum, I hope, will doe the same ; but he alleadges he hath fourteen pence offered, and expects more. I have sent you copies of my rights to what I can receive of this vessell, &c. &c.

The Archbishops of Glasgow did speake to me about that debt of my fathers, and my answer was that which I gave to most in that case ; that if he could persuade the commission to prefer him to all or any parte of the soume, by allotting him land, I was content to take the land, and become his debittour, but my 15000 lb. and relieffe of that I am already bound in, I cannot passe from, otherways I would but breake myselfe, and deceave those I promised to pay, if I had it not ; and this is ended all I can doe, and on this occasion I shall tell you what is to worke on, encase I told it not before. The wholl debt, principall and annuell, is about 1000000 mks, wherof I am bound in some more then 300000 mks. Ther is estate to pay me my 15000 lb. and releive me of all my engadgments, except about 20000 lb. which must burthen the reversion of my mother's jointur.¹ Soe ther goes to the payment of the creditors I am not bound to, the reversion of my mothers jointer of 10300 mks, and the debt owing by M^c Laine and Cap^t Claunonall, for which, if

¹ Lady Margaret Douglas, daughter of William Earl of Morton. This Marchioness died in March 1678, as we learn from a mutilated account of her among the Wodrow MSS. ; she is there stated to have been exceedingly charitable to the poor. She believed " if she gave with a single eye, she would be accepted, q^t ever they wer ; yet did she little regard profane randy beggars, yet even these still gott something by her order." The Lord's way with Lady M^{archioness} A^{rgyll}.

they will agree among themselves, I offer to them the halfe of all principalls ; if not, when the commission declares who are to be prefered, or what share every one is to have, I will deall with every one severally, which will be more worke both to them and me. In a word, I will strive to pay as much of my father's debt as necessity will suffer me. My brother and I am fully settled, but he inclines not so much to be a Highland man as I could wish. I have taken my venture of his right ; and instead of it, I give him the land in Lorne he had right to, and I bind my selfe to releive 32000 mks of wedset is on it ; so that he hath 5300 mks of rent lying together, and I give him warrandice out of the lands he hath resigned in, &c. intire, as farre as they will goe : but my mother will never thinke he hath enough.

I have sent Duncan Campbell this expedition to Kintire, because my Bailly is sike. I am farre from foregeting his Ma^{ties} comands, and not very ready to question expense ; but till it be a fitte time to speake of that, I wish my Lord Com. had order to provead me with armes and amunitioun for his Ma^{ties} own service : I will find men and meall, for all is yet laid on me.

If you darre promise, it will not be ill taken. I can possibly find some use for R. A. ; but unlesse I were by you, I cannot allways answer all questions.

Pray let me have a receate of making small shote, Prince Rupert's way ;¹ I folded my paper wrong, will make you glake. Adieu.

¹ Prince Rupert gave himself so much to study and scientific experiments, that he was looked upon by the vulgar as a magician ; a notion encreased by his austere man-

My service to Will. Erskine.

Inveraray, Sept. 22, 65.

Your garlantine presents her service to you.

I would not have you shew the copies inclosed, save to E. L. or his Ma^{tie}.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARY OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I received this morning your Lo: sent me by H. M^eKie, with the order it mentions, and did immediatlie dispatch every thing in order to that business ; and have sent my yacht doune the coast, encase they should offer to slipe away. Sir Robert Murray knows the bounds ; I must againe upon this occasion remember your Lo: to ner, sallow complexion, and a large favourite dog, alias familiar, his constant companion. The Duchess of Orleans remarks in her letters, " J'ai entendu raconter qu'en Angleterre on a pris feu mon oncle Rupert pour un sorcier, et son gros chien noir pour le diable. Aussi, quand il vint à l'armée, et marcha contre l'ennemi, des regimens entiers fuirent devant lui." Medicine was one of his pursuits. In a journal of the year 1553, after mention of *black* Prince Rupert having been saved from drowning by his *blackamores*, is this passage, " His highness, it seems, has learnt some magic amongst the remote islands ; since his coming hither, he hath cured the Lord Jermin of a feaverr, with a charme ; but I am confident England is without the jurisdiction of his conjuring faculty." In a MS. vol. of receipts which belonged to a lady of the Falkland family, is the Prince's cure for gravel—" old oil of turpentine, four or five drops in any drink."

For various proofs of his supernatural powers, see Law's Memorials, p. 237, *Note*.

get me a warrand for the armes and powder, etc. are at Glasgow, which were taken from my father, for I want, and I cannot now get to buy. I spoke to my Lo: Com: and he said he could not doe it without ane order; and if at any other time orders of the like nature come, it is necessare to be provided of such things as I cannot get for mony, during the war and sicknesse. The two brasse gunnes are at Dounstiffnage, and what ever more we get shall be at his Ma^{ties} service, only I have sent S(ir) R(obert) M(urray) copies of my rights, encase they be questioned; but it will be next suner before we get what is worth his Ma^{ties} sending for. I thanke God to heare his Ma^{tie} is well againe. Adieu.

Inveraray, Sept. 22.

65.

Inveraray, Oct. 12, 65.

MY LORD,

Since my last I have beane busie taking prisoners in all quarters.¹ Ralston and Coll: Hacket are secured. L^t Co^{ll} Wallace slipt

¹ "Towards the beginning of September, an order comes down to the commissioner to seize, imprison, and confine several of the most considerable and best gentlemen of the kingdom. Such were pitched upon who were suspected to have greatest aversion to the prelatie way, and indeed no other thing could they be charged with, and were as peaceable and loyal subjects as the king had—they were, without the least previous notice, seized by a written order from the commissioner, and had not the least reason given them. Their names, as far as I can now recover them, were Major-general Robert Montgomery, brother to the Earl of Eglinton, Sir William Cunningham of Cunninghamehead, Sir George Maxwell of Nether-Pollock, Sir Hugh Campbell of

out of the way upon the taking Gen^l Major Montgomery, six or eight weekes before my order. We have no Major Moor in Kintire, but two Moores we have, whom I have put under baill, and my L: Com^r shall choose. M^cCoull finding me resolute to repossesse myself, according to my decret, resolved to draw to a head, and play Lochyall with me ; but before he could effectuate it, I tooke a wing of his armie with caption, and am now in poss(ess)ion of the debatable lands, according to my decreate : for the tenants have renounced, and are gone home in peace. Yet our business is not over, for M^cCoull hath left his house, with his uncle, and 12 men to keepe it, and is himselfe gone to sea with a berline and another boat, and 46 men, and brags greate maters ; but if he let me allone, he shall be no more troubled by me. Ther is one of the fined persons whom I could not catch, who hath committed a vile rapt upon Ednamples¹ sister, a widow, by carrying her away over seas, and to illes, above 5 weeks, forcing her at last, to save her life, to marie the partie, and to signe several papers, all which, at her returne, she declares was extorted from her. I have sent to advise his Ma^{ties} advocate befor I proceed in the processe, and it is like I will doe no more but sumond all partys to find caution till I be

Cesnock, Sir William Muir of Rowallan, Major-General Holburn of Menstrie, Sir George Monro, Colonel Robert Halket, brother to Sir James Halket of Pitferran, Sir James Stewart, late provost of Edinburgh, Sir John Chiesly of Carswell, James Dunlop of that Ilk, William Ralston of that Ilk."—WODROW'S *Hist. B. I.* chap. vi.

Colonel Wallace, mentioned in the letter above, made afterwards a very conspicuous figure in the insurrection terminated at Pentland.

¹ John Campbell of Edinample.

at Edin^r, which I intend, God willing, the first weeke of the next month. M^cEntosh and Lochyall are now fully ended, save the security, wherein I will not willingly let Lochyall fail, though I know some will be ill pleased any nighbour would be my friend; yet it is good for his Ma^{ties} service, and I deny not it is my good that the Highlands be peaceable, and the law current, which that differ will be a greate let to, for it is ill favoured to heare in too publick meetings, upon occasion of citing of persons, that there is not tutus accessus. I confesse it is much harder catching men in the Highlands, but pains might make his Ma^{ties} bage goe throw them with as much authority as throw any other shires in Scotland. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Upon my returne to the inclosed depends my dispatch from this (which concerns me much to hasten) and indeed the close of all my rights; for till this commission end, and I resigne, and be throw the sealles again, I am not as I would be. The inclosed notte is Sir George Lockharts¹ draught, who is my greate tutor: if it were

¹ Sir George Lockhart, knight, afterwards president of the Court of Session—his murder, by Chiesly was supposed to be agreeable to the Jacobites; yet the Lord Chancellor Perth, in an unpublished letter to King James, dated 29 Dec. 85, assures him that Sir George "will do his best to secure those who (by your special order) serve you here, and are not qualified by the late acts of Parliament to serve in any publique station."

not delay, I would never stand to take these superiorities at all they can be valued at, but it would take more time to value them than all the rest of that estate, and if once it were set afoute, all must stand till that be done. Your Lo: knows who I have most work to guid in that commission; he is for the creditors beyond ane advocate or a creditor; yet in my L. St. ansures, as cleare as may be, I find my L. M^cDonald hath a signature for the few dutys of Illanster. My L. D. Lennox¹ gift runs out. It was well done to rid his Ma^{tie} of his trouble, but his desire is most unreasonable; for besids the Exchequers interest, it is hard to turn over the laird of Calder, who is heritor, to be upon the mater M^cDonald vassall instead of his Ma^{ties}, which is done by giving him an heritable right to the few duty. I know my Lord M^cDonald values himselfe as chiefe, and a greate man, but the Cap^t of Clanronald, and Sir James,² and several of the name, are greater than he: and Lochyall command is double his. I wish no letters may come from his Ma^{tie} to second the gift, and I believe it shall not passe for a whill. I will long sorely for ane answer to my petition, and till it come, and a fortnight after, I am fixt. I have written all clash to S(ir) R(obert) M(urray). Adieu.

Ed^r N^ober, 18, 65.

¹ Charles, Duke of Lennox and Richmond, the last of his illustrious family. He died at Elsinour, December 1672, without issue.

² Sir James Macdonald of Slate, Bart. ancestor of the Lords Macdonald of Slate.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

My Lord Commissioner having spoken to me of the Erle of Lowdowns signing the declaration, I told him he was willing ; but in regard he was conscious of no guilt he was fined for, and that it was out of duty and obedience to his Ma^{tie} he did it, and not to save mony, and hoping his grace would looke on him as a persone able and willing to serve his Ma^{tie}, I begged thier might some other rise be taken for his signing than the fine, were it but to make him a justice of peace ; I would not move any greater trust lest it might be thought he would not doe it without that, yet realy, were he a counsellor, it might very much advance his Ma^{ties} service in the west. My Lord Commissioner promised to write to your Lo: about the first ; the second I did not then propound, but I meane to doe it by the time this can come to your hands. The E. of Lowdons match w^t E. Eglintons¹ daughter stands only at the jointer, which

⁵ Hugh, seventh Earl of Eglintoune ; his daughter, Lady Margaret (by Lady Mary Lesley, sister of the Duke of Rothes) finally became the wife of Lord Loudon. The following letters, of which the originals were in the possession of Lady Douglas of Bothwell, were written during the courtship. The lady's is a model, which, it is but too much to be feared, very few in her situation will imitate.

cannot be received without prejudice to him, till the mater of the annuities be at some period; yet I am striving to find overtours for it. Within a fortnight after I receave your Lo: answer to my last, I thinke to be making west. This evening the counsell have appointed Jo. McNightane to reenter prisoner in the tolbooth of Inverary, from whence he escaped. I write a long story of it to S. R(obert) M(urray.) My wiffe presents her service to you and to my lady, and so doe I. Adieu.

Ed^r Deber 7, 65.

Lowdon, Sept. 5, 1666.

MADAM,

The continuance of my misfortune in not being yett in a conditione to wait upon your La^p is beyond expression vexing; and the more I ponder my unspeakable loss, my anxiettie is the greater, and cannot but continow so till this sadde and dark cloud be over; and then the beames of your presence and favour will elevat the now perplexed heart of,

Madam

Your La: most affectionate,

And most humble servant,

For my Lady MARGARET MONTGOMERIE.

LOUDON.

Canigot, Nov. 25, 1666.

MY LORD,

To give a return suitabell to anie of yours, is above what I am capabell of, they so far excied both the capacity and desert of,

My Lord,

Your Lo: humble servant,

For the Earl of LOUDON.

MARGARET MONTGOMERIE.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Edr Jan^r 20, 66.

MY LORD,

It were too long a theme to say all is necessaric about stoping of theft in this country, yet if it were seriously gone about, few needed be hanged, though some must ;¹ but seeing every judge condemns, and only his Ma^{tie} can pardone, I thinke this case of Lachlane M^cIn-tosh is as much ane occation of pity as most : and if he pardoned, I am confident it will doe no hurt to the country, for I believe he

¹ Lord Hailes, in his Catalogue of the Lords of Session, has printed part of a letter from Lord Argyll, to Sir Archibald Primose, Clerk Register, on a similar subject—the whole, saving a few words, is subjoined from the copy in the Advocates' Library.

MY LORD,

You have now in your hands ; not for sculdudry, the old fault of the house, else I should not interpose, he would make a shift for friends ; but for a less gentlemanny crime, theft ; which, if he were guilty of it, needed not have come this lenth. Pray, play him fair play, and make not him the only example of suffering thieves to live near him. It is his Maj^r authority only to fall on outlaws. is gone. Weem is and no wise man will medle without backing. If he get that, and be not ready to serve his Majesty, let bim suffer. Let me have a line from you after the council day. I rest, my Lord, your affectionat friend and servant,

Inverarey, Sept. 1st, (1663).

ARGYLL.

For my Lord Registrar.

resolves to quite the trade. I rest, my Lord, your Lo: loving nephew and humble servant,

ARGYLL.

TO THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAIL, LORD
SECRETARY OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I have written a long answer to my brother about the particulars in your last; and for what your Lo: tells me is done for Calder and Lochyall, if they be not than(k)full to your Lo: they are to blame. But because your Lo: is pleased to remember the children, your sone Johne is a great rogue: the dry nurse, douting he had **** ***, threatened him if it had beene trewe, shee would have pulld him in pieces, and eated him every bit. He lookt up in her face, and laught, and said, What, would you have eaten my **** too? I askt him presently what I should now say to you from him? He said, even deare Lord Lauderdaill. Give me leave to tell you one story more, of Jeane,¹ whom I still alleage is very like my lady, and not the lesse of this. The children are taught morning and evening to say the Lord's prayer, and pray God to blesse their relations by name, of whom you are oftest first with them; Nanie²

¹ Lady Jean Campbell, married to William, second Marquis of Lothian.

² Lady Anne Campbell, married first to Richard, fourth Earl of Lauderdale; secondly, to Charles, seventh Earl of Moray.

one day mist the king : ended, says Jeanie, it is not your commone to forgete the king ; if it had not beene for him, you and I had been hussies. Some thinkes a sib child the best foole ; it may be it is so with me. My wife is to goe a progresse with me to Kintire ; shee presents her service to your Lo: and as I doe to my Lady and my Lady Marie. Adieu.

Inverarey, March 28, 66.

FOR THE EARLE OF ARGYLL.

[Enclosed in the preceding ; probably written by Lady Argyll. The notes are in her husband's hand.]

DEARE

Lord father, I wold fain have you come home. Camie¹ and wee are all bursen, brewing aquavitie to send to my godfather. Ther is two cows calved in Killmelow, and another going to calve, and Lady Mother hath bidden Anna Forest make them fat against you come home ; and then they will be killed, and you shall get a piece of them. And ther is two swin in the clos, that Sandie Cunningham gives them pans full of draf and swilings, to make them fat against Fastrens even, and then we will get bros and pancaks. I have biden Lady Mother take something out of her owne head,

¹ Campbell, that is, Katherine Stewart.

for I have no mor in my head to say, but deare lord father, fare-well for old long syne.¹

Your owne pritie man,

JOHNE LAUDERDAILL.

Deare swit lord father, remember my
new yirs gift.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I am heare, not only setling land, but breaking a club; and I hope to effectuate both. I have now set most of my land, save a litle of what the lowlanders possesse. It is not mony is the difference, but I will have every single tennant have his take of me, with all necessarie clauses, and not depend on one another, and remove or stay, and doe every thing as the word is given them. I have improved what his Ma^{tie} gave me a litle, and it is still at his Ma^{ties} command. I have at last gote the draught of that ratification, and sent it; it is every word the commission and decreete, only one word in the close, which the vassals are as much concerned to have past as I. If it can passe, it will doe them and me some good: but I leave it to your Lo: to leave it out, if it be not fitte.

My wiffe presents her service to your Lo. Adieu.

Kintire, May 4.

¹ This is a song he is much taken with. He dances all dances to that tune, and repeates the words on all occations.

He is ane English man, he remembers his belly so well.

FOR YOUR LO:

MY LORD,

I will long to heare a retorne of my last. Our bishope¹ was heare, and had many instructions given him to try my cariage, but we parted in a very good understanding. I found ther was much pains taken by some to give him characters of your Lo: but partly by what you gave me warrant to say, and partly by my own proper knowledge of maters, I hope I have made him know your Lo: better than they wish. The braes of the Highlands are fallen very broken; the cry will be at Glenurchy, and so at me: but as it concerns no subject more to have them peaceable, so none shall wish it more then I, be instrument who will. Adieu.

August 23, 66.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARL OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Yaght at Tarbet, Kintire,
Dec^r. 3, 66.

MY LORD,

Since my last I have not had the honour to endure blows for his Ma^{ties} service, but really I am allmost killed with toill and ill wea-

¹ William Scrogie, originally parson of Raphan in Aberdeenshire.

ther. After I had advertised all the heritors of the shire to meete me heere, with a certaine proportion of the best men, best armed, I went myself, day and night, forward to Kiutire, with a small party, and drave all, foul and cleane, here before me ; where I found the country very well conveened, but not armed as I could have wished for his Ma^{ties} service. It is not to be imagined but in a wholl shire some would be slow, and some refractory ; and these I have taken notice of, and some I have taken engadgments of, to live peaceably, and to render ther persones when they are required. Not that I can prove any accession to the late insurrection,¹ but because, in discourse, I found them not principalled as I wished. I have garisoned two houses, Sadell and Skipnage, for a fortnight, till all be peaceable, and till I acquaint the Gen^l,² and the lowlanders have contributed ther share for it ; but I would have none of ther men. Our leavies being spent, and hearing by a letter from Dunbarton that the rebells were disipate, I have dismissed the country people. I have done at this time what I could, with the graith I had, but if his Ma^{tie} use the shire upon such occations, it is necessare we be better provided ; and, with ane inconsiderable expence, this shire will be able and willing, upon any accident, to serve his Ma^{tie} with a thousand men, in or about the shire. I heare, since I came from home, that ther were orders sent to the severall Shirriffs, and to me, from the councell ; but some good hand hath kept up mine. I intend home early, and will strive shortly to be at Ed^l. Adieu.

¹ The Galloway delusion, which ended so fatally at Pentland, is here alluded to.

² General Thomas Dalzell of Binns, who routed the insurgents at Pentland.

MY LORD,

Yours of the 5th I receaved on Fryday the 14 as I was at dinner, and E. Seaforth with me ; and have danced more since then since I was married, for I made all the house try it.¹ You bid me hast to Ed^r, but when you have receaved my letter to E. Tweedale from this, before I went to the Tarbet, my letter from that to yourselfe, and my letter to S. R. Morra at my returne, I hope your Lo: will not find so much necessitie in my hurling from this ; yet I had waited on my L. Commissioner at Glasgow, if E. Seaforths coming heere had not diverted me. He was the lenth of Mull when I gote the news of the rebellion, but that journey to Tarbet was, beyond complement, on private business, so he stayed ther till my returne, and, I believe, eate all the shild meall in that country before he came away. I cannot now be at Edin^r before the 4th of Jan^r, for this yeare puts me very far behind in my private affaires. The perfecting some things betwixt E. Seaforth and me is left to E. Tweedale. McLeane and I cannot agree, but I doute not a decreete will do my businnes. I shall goe the lenth you command me to settle with M. Montrose, rather than be at a constant jangle ; but entreuth it is all I can doe, and I cannot deny I expect but little helpe in the treist : but before I give up, I will engadge for 100,000 mks Scots, so get reasonable termes, and that is 16,000 mks more then the land was valued to at first, and 25,000 mks more than my father got from

¹ On the 11th of December, 1666, Lady Anne Maitland, the duke's daughter, was married to John, Lord Yester, afterwards Marquis of Tweedale.

M. Montrose. As shoone as I come to Ed^r I will prepare the signature, and your Lo: may be sure of the best account I can give you in every other thing. I hope your Lo: will last down E. Tweedale. I had almost forgote to tell you that William Wallace is returned to Kintire, and I have secured him; but I am hopefull he was not upon the knowleadge of the insurrection, nor at it: but if he have, I hope to find it out before any other be troubled to examine him. I confesse I did not doute the goodman of Calwall, whose name is in the proclamation. He was my tenant in Kintire, and had ane estate in the Lowlands, wher he had beene two months before the insurrection. He is the only man I missed out of Kintire, besides W. Wallace, and one Jo. Cunnegham, that nobody takes for phanatike. You will heare more certainly from Ed^r than I can doe heere, but as far as I can learne, this seemes not to have beene a genⁿ plote, nether can I heare that L. Coll. James Wallace was at the begining of the rising; but, it seemes, too many have been ready to rake when the fire was kindled: yet I hope Kintire will not, after this, be so ill looked on. I am talked of for tendernesse to them, and I deny it not, when I think it will doe good, and no hurt; but if they abuse it, I hope they shall need no other to cute their throats. Adieu.

Inveraray, De^{ber} 15, 66.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

The minute betwixt M. Montrose and me is not yet signed, but I thinke we shall overcome all the rubs remaine ; he will have me renounce all acts in favours of debtors, made or to be made. I am will(ing) to renounce all made : then I thinke he should assigne me, amongst rights, to the fourscore foure thousand pound to which Cowell is valued, and absolutely discharge me and my estate of all claimes. This would keepe me, and, it may be, his Ma^{tie}, free of some trouble ; but I am not fully resolved whether to stike at ether of these, so that I thinke all shall end to morrow.

I am not a litle troubled at ane accident is fallen out, tho I hope his Majesty shall have no losse, and my Lord Com: laughs at me, and thinks the baill better then the persone. The matter is, that rascall William Wallace, after he was come neare the lenth of Glasgow, out of Kintire hither, he mette one Eshinyards¹ Coninghame, who persuaded him, tho he were never so innocent, he would never get of, but would be put in the booties. Upon this, after he had gote all the testificates of his residence during the rebellion, he tooke a suden resolution, and went backe to Kintire, wher he stayed but one night, in a remote part on the shore, and from thence went to Ireland. He left a letter behind him, protesting his innocencie. My

¹ Probably Auchinyards. See Playfair's Baronetage of Scotland, p. 197.

L: Com: remembered very well it was against my will he was not brought with a guard ; but he now wisht me to keepe it quiet, till I tryed what could be done to catch both him and his father, which I have contrived thus : I have dispatched Duncane Campbell to Kintire ; I have bid him make faire weather, and put W. Wallace wiffe, who is ther, in some hope her husbands peace may yet be made. Shee will certainly send over to him, and I question not his father and he are together. I have directed Duncan to send over some to doge the mensengers, and find out the haunt ; and if that can be done, a party from Kintire, with a recommendation from my L: Com: to the Justices of Peace in Ireland, may catch them. I have given instructions at greate lenth, and I assure your Lo: it shall cost me both paines and mony if I catch not W. Wallace, or some more considerable persone. No bodie in tounne doth yet know this, and before they doe, I hope to get a returne from Duncan. You need not chid me ; I am as vexed as you would wish me ; and that you write to me vexes me the more : yet many others as suspect are on baill, and many obscure persones have escaped out of this prisone, to the number, I believe, of 40.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

Your Lo: two last came to my hand but yesternight, for Fordie¹ had lockt them up, and was out of toune, so I could not know wher to looke for them. The aquavitie shall be hasted all I can ; I wish I had payed for a puncheon more, (and) the letter had overtaken me at Inveraray, as it might, for now it will be longer by the way, doe what I can. I am very much rejoyced at the account of the wedding, and I am confident some good influence reacht our distance, for we tooke a fitte at Inneraray will not be forgotten. When I gote your Lo: letter telling me of the wedding day, it was at diner, and I had new put his Ma^{ties} health round, which I use to end with ; so when you gave me occation to drinke to the bridgroom and brides, it put us to drinke his Ma^{ties} over againe, to be upmost ; and for two days we were as merrie as you would wish us : my wiffe and children, and all the servants, were brought to dance, besids what other companie we had.

I was diverted the last post day, from write, by a foolish accident fell out. My brother in law, Mr Archibald Stueart,² had rifled his

¹ John Campbell of Fordie.

² Afterwards of Dunearn, in Fife, fourth son of James Earl of Moray, by Lady Margaret Home, daughter of Alexander Earl of Home, co-heiress with her sister Anne,

mothers closet at Dunibrisle, and as shee aileighted from her litter, seased on what shee caried about with her ; so that he possessed himselfe of, and caried away, all her jewells, gold, and mony, plate and knacks. Her servants tooke no paines to looke after it, nor did such of them as were in tounne send me any word ; but hearing of it at second hand, I presently sent to her to know the treuth, and to offer my service in the recoverrie. At first shee would not see D. Campbell, whom I sent, but, on second thoughts, shee accepted of my offer, and thanked me ; but before I gote her returne, I did, by good luke, find out my youth, who thought he had done no greate fault, and thought he would be allowed to capitulate, that way, with his mother, for a livlihood ; and had some hopes given him of countenance, or oversight at least, from some ought not, and I hope would not have done ; however, I made bold, without noise, to secure him in my owne chamber, till I got all, save the mony, restored : and I haue giuen all bake to my Lady.

I must now plead strongly that your Lo: would deall with my Lady his mother, and his brother, and concerne yourselfe in the poore young man, that he ruine not ; he is desperate, and he threatens runing out of the country, if his friends doe nothing for him. He hath a mistresse, he says, he cannot be happy without ; shee hath but about five thousand pound Scots portion, but some of her relations knew as much of his pranke as may make them portion

Duchess of Lauderdale, of her brother James, second Earl of Home. Mr Stuart married a daughter of Sir John Henderson of Fordel, by whom he had issue

her better, rather then come to a hearing. If my Lady would secure him in about eleaven chalder of victuall, that is, of her new purchase, he will be satisfied. He is realy a pretty sweete young gentleman, and I would not have him lost for this: the mony was but 200 lb. St., and seing I have gote bake the papers and jewells, gold, and every thing els, I have left my Lady to seeke that herselfe; but really I thinke shee is content it be so: pray doe som thing for him, for it greeues me to see him in the plight he is in at present.

I have, since I came heere, beene looking over the minuts of the Councell; there is no word of me in the act for letters to the shires, tho euery body was present says I was mentioned in Perthshire. Atholl is excepted, not to rise with the Sherriffe, but with the E: of Atholl, or whom he shall apoint. I am not mentioned, tho my interests in Perth shire be not inferior to his, tho my rent be lesse; but, except to your Lo:, I shall take no notice of it, but I shall, within a weeke, give your Lo:, it may be, some further hints about the militia of the country.

I have beene severall times to waite upon my Lord Commissioner; he shewed me the copie of his Maties letter to the Convention: he promises to determine betwixt the M: Montrose and me, and I am confident he may prevail; for (tho) M: M: be confident to wine the cause about the blanch and ward lands, he is certaine to lose the cause with my mother, which is to him of farre greater importance.

I shall observe all you direct me in your last; ther shall none offer more, nor more frankly, for the maintenance, then I; and for

fighting phanatiks, I think they cannot be severly enough used. As for W. Wallace, I had, besids my gen^l order to the Bailly in Kintire to secure all suspected persons, expresly apointed the securing him ; but he came and offered himselfe, and gave such ane account of his absence, that he tooke two baill for him. I examined him afterwards, and not finding what I expected, I knew it would be ane upcast to me, if I sent in only ane, against whom ther was nothing to be made out ; yet I write to my L: Com: to see if he had gotte any information against him, and, since I came heere, he refused to let me send for him by a gard, but only to command him heere on his baill. I thinke he is secure enough on the baill, but it is out of no kindnesse he was not close ; but it is hard to me some times to know how to walke without orders, for it is enough somtimes to make some deale for a man, because I am against him.

G. Campbell, or his sone Coline, Montrose chamberlaine, are now counted as honest as any, tho nether will take the declaration ; and I would not willingly medle with them without order : however, your Lo: shall not have cause to complaine of me on that head. The A. B. was not at church last Sunday. Its talked throw the toune he is not to proceed in the convention.

I did a whill agoe write a word to S. R. M. of a bussines my brother tooke me very short in ; he had, without my knowledg, I confesse, made ane adresse to your Lo: niece, the young Lady Lundie.¹

¹ Sophia, daughter and heiress of Margaret Lundin of Lundin, in Fife, by the Hon. Robert Maitland, brother of John, Duke of Lauderdale. She married, April 1670, John, Earl of Melfort.

At his returne he communicate the bussines to me ; I joined heartily in it, and offered to come heere about it, but when I came to speake of particulares, I found the commoning was farre advanced on termes I thought of greate(r) advantage to the Lady nor him, and such as I thought I had reasone not to give my consent to, if it signified any thing. I thought he would have stayed at Rosneath, till I had beene ther on my way hither, but I found both my mother and him so earnest at have it at a close, that he was gone ther the second time. All I shall say is, I am farre from fearing your Lo: thinke my not meddling in the mater proceeds ether from unkindnesse to the Lady, or yet to my brother, for if he had advised with me, I could not have advised him better, or more to my owne satisfaction ; but I hope your Lo: will not thinke it amisse he treatte so as may carie alongs the relation of the family he is come of, nor thinke him the farrer from the honour of your relation, that he doe so. Whatever is my concerne in it, I will not only be advised, but commanded by your Lo: in it, and shall signe a blanke, whenever they please, to that purpose ; but if they refuse your Lo: arbitration, I thinke it no wonder they refuse my advise. I have not time to read this over Adieu.

Ed: 8 Jan. 67.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

The Earl of Lowdone hath now beene at the convention, and upon that occation tooke the declaration. My L: Com: called me, and gave me a fortnight to deall for the halffe of his fine, which is all can be pretended to : I said I would neuer acknowledge guilt, nor promise to pay, but ill was good of frist. Let me know what measurs to take, and what I may expect from him. He is unable to pay, and thinks he is altogether innocent ; and if I dare answer for any on earth, it is for him. Ther was but three of all his vassals or tenants with the rebells, and I am sure sore against his will ; and ther is one of them catch. Both he and I will be heere this fortnight. This day the lawers and burgesses have proved so deuote as to free all ministers of taxation, in hops the clergie will free the mony.¹ One urged, a minister of 8 chalder of victuall might pay as well as ane heritor of 4 or 5, that behoved besides to joine in the militia ; but it was rejected. Adieu.

Ed^t, Jan^r 15,

67.

¹ This word is doubtful in the MS.

FOR YOUR LO:

Edr, Jan^r 19, 1667.

MY LORD,

Yesterday morning I waited on my L: Com. He shute his dore, and after severall expressions of kindnesse, he told me he had beene dealing with M. Montrose to settle with me, and now he had put it to a close. I said I had put myselfe in his hands, and would obey whatever he would command ; he pronounced 80000 lb., and said it was your Lo: opinion, and if I refused, you would pay 10000 lb. of it. I deny not I gave a looke shew I was surprised, but that I said was, it was nether fitte your Lo: should pay mony for me, nor that I should disobey his commands ; but I hoped he was but jesting: for a twelve month agoe it was offered me for 70000, and I hoped to be somewhat the better of his mediation. I had offered 50000 lb. to his G^r before, and offered to refere the ods to 60000 lb. to him, but how it should be beyond that, I knew not ; especially seing Montrose would necessarily losse the rent during my mothers lifetime. He answered, your Lo: had said so ; and after this he would write such things doune : it behoved to be 70000 lb. I said, I could not deny your Lo: had written to me but of 60000 lb. (and) had wished me to goe as great a lenth as I could, and seing he told me it behoved to be more, though I resolved never to exceed that, yet in deference to him, he should command me in 100000^{mks}, and Montrose pleased to breake for the rest I was very indifferent ; I hope

his G^r would not take it ill. He said, he had ended at the 80, and he could not no more, nor would medle no more in it. I said, if he had said it, I was to obey ; but I wisht he had spoke to me ere it went that lenth. It stands heere, and it is understood I have yeelded, but I am sore tempted to break of. I know any body might have had it at the rate, seing my L. C. says he is engadged, and that your Lo: spoke of such a soume, though etc, and seing I said I would yeeld to the soume he would name, I will not breake on the soume ; but ther remains the securitie, and termes : these I shall treist, I will not submite. Besids my mother will carie this yeares rent, and shall doe it for me, if he accept not of 100000^{lrs} : it may be really they will seeke security I cannot give for ; for the other, I doe it, I confesse, because I would not be overfarre out treisted : however, I will strive to keep it in the ballance till I have your Lo: returne, for w^t out your consent I will not give up.

I am much troubled to see my mother in law so farre out of humour, and willing to take no advice ; the first night I gave her some of her things (she) was very sober, but now is just at the old trade, still railing at Alex: Brodie, as if my wife and I had combined with him, to take all from her. (Her)sone, Mr Ar: shee cannot be perswaded to looke on, but ther is a fellow, her butler, that cheats her ; his sister bore two children to Mr Ar:, and lay in within my ladys. This hussie, and some others of the trade, lodge in the house, and the acquaintances haunte them ; they sell aile, and keepe a racket, that all the toune knows : besids I have more than shrewd presumptions that this fellow knew of stealing the

jewells, and for all this shee will keepe him, and will not—(The rest of this letter is lost.)

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

The convention have now ordered the mater of quartering for deficiencie. Each trouper hath 15 pence, a foute souldier a groate, from the day he produces his order ; and is to quarter at the sight of the collector, and two or three of the commissioners of assesment : the shires name ther collectors, and pay them, and the commissioners, and their clerks ; and the collectors are to take the declaration.

This afternoone ther was some debate about the way of reckoning, and paying what the soldiers spent in ther quarters ; but it was unanimously voted, save by the oficers, and about six more, that the country should compt with the Quarter M^r, wher they gote not payment, and have it allowed in their cesse. The ways and methods are referred to the commitie. The burrows begine to re-great they yeilded to suspension of principal sounes, and wish they had rather agreed to retention of one of the hundreth ; but it is hard now to helpe it. Some thinke to stage the debate anew ; if so, the convention cannot end to morrow.

The Re(gister) hath againe beene upon me about S. W. T.,¹ and the provost of Ed^r² hath beene with me; whither they understand other perfectly I doe not know, but I doe partly doute it, except in uno tertio. However, the provost tells me he resolves to waite on your Lo: expressly to explaine himselfe farther to your Lo: and to let you know how desirous he is to satisfie you in anything is in his power. I am hopefull he intends to doe so, and I have not dissuaded him from the journey, but I have not the least ground to believe he will signe that contract your Lo: sent him. He did not positively say he would not, but, as I understood him, he is to satisfie your Lo: with reason, and not with doing the thing. He thinks to be up towards the end of the session, and wisht me to endeavour his silence might not be misunderstood, seing he only delayed to write, being so shortly to have occasion to open his mind at greater lenth. What your Lo: commands me to say to him, I shall. Adieu.

Ed^r, Jan^r 22, 1667.

¹ Probably Sir William Thomson, knight, a person who made for some years a great figure in the politics of the town of Edinburgh.—See Appendix.

² Sir Andrew Ramsay of Abbotshall; his letters to the Duke of Lauderdale are printed in the Appendix.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I have receaved all you write, or sent to me inclosed, and have as neare as I could obeyed your Lo: in the first, and also lastly in the second.

The aquavete is by this time readie, and as shoone as it comes shall be sent by land to Newcastle; and if ther be not a present occation by sea, shall goe on the same way; for it is in small barles of purpose: your Lo: may be sure my wiffe will hast it all is possible.

I thinke it very fitte to delivere your letter to my mother in law, and I acknowledge it may justly need some time to perswad her to doe greate things for her sone, and therefore I have never attempted, further then to dispose her to see him, and accept of a submission, which, without more, hath made me, I beleive, losse my thanks; however, I will still observe duty to her. These two young gentlemen, her sones, are ended in a hard condition. Francis¹ may well expect a sober intertainment; he will never get more of his brother: and for Archibald, he hath lost himselfe, in all apearance, at his mothers hands, and I feare at his brothers, and his stay with

¹ Francis Steuart, afterwards of Culalay. He died without issue.

me is but a small part of the fortune I wish him. Wherefore, if your Lo: see any way how some employment may be got to them, they are both really pretty men, and as hopeful as most of their condition in Scotland. I have sent your Lo: two letters I had about Mr Francis; I know I need say nothing to your Lo: either for to move you to the thing, nor to propound any employment, nor the way to come at it; these things your Lo: will know better than I.

As for my own brother, he hath yet told me no particulars, but E. Craford, who is in town, will, I know, tell me all; and what ever my brother resolve, your Lo: may be very certain I will not abuse the freedom you give me. I will look to the interest of my family a little, I deny not; but it shall be so as I hope you will approve, and, I am sure, shall not any way slacken the ties of the offspring to your Lo: nor your family. I know you expect no return to your kindness by paper, neither do I intend it that way. Adieu.

Edm^r, Jan^r 26,

67.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I have seen your Lo: to my L. Com. and the inclosed from his Ma^{tie} to him, and you understand all better than I can tell you; I shall heartily agree to all these remedies, but sure they are scarce

worth a quarter of ane hour of his Ma^{ties} time.¹ All the armes shall be found will not in my opinion arme one companie, nor the horse mont a troupe. The outed ministers that medled in the late rebellion, I thinke deserve torture ; but what advantage will be in securing any that did not, but, in obedience to the law, have removed out of the parishes they were in, I cannot tell. My humble opinion is, that all will not engadge to live peaceably, and never to carry armes against the king or his commission, should be put wher ther needs no troops to supresse them ; ther helpe we desire not, unlesse we have some more ground of confidence in them, and if ther oath or subscription signifie any thing, sure it is in this, which is so cleare that there is no equivocation ; so just that no Christian, nor most of them, in cold blood, will deny nor find ground of scruple : and therefore I thinke answers the end of any engadgment could be put on them, more fully then any thing els I can thinke on. I deny not I thinke ther are too many that affect not the episcopall government, but I am confident a very inconsiderable number ; and those inconsiderable persons, that incline to disturbe the peace. Ther is much discourse about setling the Highlands, and the way is not yet fallen on ; but if, as God forbid, we should see any invasion, I feare the disorders ther would prove as greate a retardment to his Ma^{ties} affaires, as the phanatiks. Severall overtours hath beene made, which I shall give a more full account of by my nixt then now I can. Adieu.

Edin^r, Jan^r 28,

67.

¹ This alludes to the severities meditated by government after the Pentland insurrection.

Since I write this I received your Lo: of the 24 current out of Mr Sharps hand.¹ I am very much satisfied that at this distance your Lo: doth approve of any thing I have scribbled ; you do perfectly understand the estate of things, and I shall strive to follow your directions as neare as I can, for besides your Lo: command, I am absolutely convinced of every word you write, that it is his Ma^{ties} service and my duty. As shoone as this meeting is over I thinke of going home.

FOR YOUR LO:

Ed^r, Jan^r 30, 1667.

MY LORD,

This evening my L. Com: called the Archbishops of Glasgow, D. Hamiltone, M. Montrose, E. Athole, E. Anandale² and me to D. Hamiltones chamber ; wher, after he read his Ma^{ties} letter, and opened the bussines, the A. B. G. gave a rise to the several partes of what was to be spoken of ; and the first was, how to secure the peace against intestine rebellion, nixt against forraine invasion. D. Hamiltone spoke to several ways of doing the first, M. Montrose resumed what they had said, and agreed to it. I said the end was good, our duty to his Ma^{tie} and our owne interest led us necessarily to agree to it ; I hoped after debate we should agree in the midses

¹ Afterwards Sir William Sharp, brother of the Archbishop of St Andrews.

² James, second Earl of Hartfell, and first Earl of Annandale, surnamed Johnston.

too. E. Atholl said something for present pressing the declaration. E. Annandale said the end was cleare, and wished us to speake to particulares. After A. B. G. and D. H. had spoken to the taking the oath of alleadgance and declaration, the seazing on all armes and horses, I pitched to speake to the first of these. First, I said, seing ther apeared some capable to breake out into rebellion, and too many disafected to the eclesiastike government, I wished we might fall on some way to secure us of the one and of the other, and my overtoure was, to lay something to ther dore, which they would thinke shame before the world to refuse, or pretend to scruple at; and this was to engadge to live peaceably, and never to rise in armes against his Ma^{tie}, or his commission, and never to harbour any declared rebell; if ther promis signified any thing, this would; all that refused this might justly be denyed the protection of his Ma^{ties} law. I thought this would calme the spirits of such as signed, as that they were not to be farther questioned; his M^{tie} might afterwards doe what he thought fitte: but finding my L. Com: and the A. B. incline rather to the puting them to the oath of alleadgance and declaration, I urged it no further; yet when we came to speake of puting all to the declaration, the A. B. was no way for it. E. Anandale said, that in time of the late rebellion, some had joined with him, and he was convinced wer as ready to hazard ther lif in his Ma^{ties} service as himselfe was, and in that very cause he was then about, who confessed to him in private, they were not cleare to signe the declaration; but he was answered, that ther were but few of that sort. I asked, whether ther were not severalls that at

least resolved to live peaceably ? it was answered, they believed not many, if they saw occasion. I asked them, whither it were better then to state them all in one condition, or whither to divid them and keepe ane ey upon them ? It was answered, it was fitte the counsell should have power from his Ma^{tie} to put the declaration to whom they should thinke fitte, which needed not be above ten or twelve in a shire, and in some shires to scarce any at all. I gave no answer to this, but when I gote my L. Com: allone, I told him I thought this would allarme to many, and not punish them, and I thought it was, as your Lo: knows the story, to take the goose by the taill and not by the necke. For the seazing on armes, all agreed to it ; but all agreed likways, that they were not worth the taking, and therefore it was thought fitte, by way of proclamation, not by searching ; for horses, we found likways ther was no number to be gote, yet it was thought fitte, as I understood, they should be seased on ; for ther was nothing in anything positively determined. Only after D. H. had very handsomely debated severall of these particulars, my L. A. B. G. was desired to draw a draught of a retorne to his Ma^{tie}, which it is thought may be ready against the Saturdays post, if he be not the carier himselfe. Some discourse ther was of putting all the outed ministers to one place. The A. B. propounded it, and nobody was against it, but nothing concluded. The militia, in the severall shires, is the way thought on to opose forraigne invasions. But there will be more difficulty in the modeling of them than is imagined ; and if ther be not magazines of armes, it will be very insignificant.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I receaved your Lo: 26 instant, this morning, as I was examining the wittenesses in that busines of the Lord Lion, wherof I cannot yet give a full account. This afternoone M. Montrose in counsell went out of his way to giue me a broad side, and gotte another. He was drunke, and I was surprised, but ther is no hurt done; my Lo: C. found me in the right, and it will be forgote to morrow.

This evening I was with A. B. G. He was in private somewhat more of my opinion about the securing the peace, but he says from severall depositions of the roages that were hanged, he thought the designe of the late rebellion more gen^{ll} then I imagined; he would have the declaration only put to a few, and those are not put to it to secure for the peace. He acknowledged he himselfe was more willing to give the usurpers baill, then promise; but he thought baill best in this case, yet he was willing to more¹ about it; but the scroll of the returne being already drawen, I doute it be much altered.

I shall yeeld to the 70000 lb., but they seeke cautioners. I offer my bond, and the land in warrandice. I thinke S. P. Wedderbourne²

¹ Sic in MS.; probably it should be more.

² Probably Sir Peter Wedderburne, of Gosford, advocate, and clerk of the Privy Council.

will be a good instrument to end it, and as shoone as it is done, I resolve to be gone ; it is ill stealing beside theeves, E. T(w)eedale really guesses right. This cesse is 20000 lb. out of my way, besids all I pay myselfe ; but if it please God we have peace, I hope to overcome it : and if not, it is all one. The inclosed will show your Lo: what a greate rent I have this yeare, and many are no better. Adieu.

Jan^r 31,

67.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Feb^r 1.

MY LORD,

This evening my L. Com: called us againe, with E. Arly¹ and L. Drumlanrike.² My other letter will shew your Lo: what was resolved. Some were very earnest that wher any conventicle was kept in a parish, the wholl parish should be lyable as conventiclors, if they gave not present notice. This they thought would make people diligent to discover them, but others thought it would ensnare honest men, from whom they did industriously hid such things.

As to taking of horses, ther are realy very few worth taking ;

¹ James, second Earl of Airly.

² William, afterwards first Duke of Queensberry.

but if ther be no mony to be payed, I dout ther will be many more above the valew then otherways would be. Your Lo: sees we say nothing of the Highlands. Its said, if any companies of foute were put in some mens hands, for seing to the peace and order of the country ther, they would be necessare for ever. Some did propound it, but I hope my projects shall never tend to any burthen on his Ma^{tie}. I should not refuse a companie, if his Ma^{tie} offered it, and I thinke it might be as useful to him as any one companie; but if I had beene earnest to have it, it had not been propounded, for me, first heere; ended, I knew not it was propounded, till it was done and had this answer.

I have a letter for you with a short account of our meeting, and an abreviate of our returne inclosed, neare readie, but whether I send it with this post, I know not.

A. B. St (Andrews) is gone of toune in a huffe. Yesternight we were at others lodgings at one time, and missed other, but mette at the Abey after. Wher after we had told each other of our purpose, he said he was to waite on me to pay his respects, and thanke me for my courtesies, not to offer services, which were now insignificant. Before I could get out a returne, he said, he behoved to acknowledge, though I was presbiterian, I caried myselfe to bishops like a gentleman. Now, pray, consider what I should answer? but before I gote out a word but, my Lord, is the mater? my L. Com: came upon us, not hearing our discourse, and interrupted us; and after a little hearked me in the care to be gone, and to meet him at D. Hamiltones, for he was to take leave of the bishope, and desired

to doe it allone. As shoone as the meeting was over, I ran up to the A. B. his lodging, and desired to know what he meant by what he said at the Abey, for I knew not how to take it till he explained him. He repeated it without the word presbyterian. I said, I really knew nothing I was ever able to serve him in deserved so sollemne thanks, nather had I, that I knew of, ever done him wrong; and I knew not what he meant by calling me presbiteriane. He excused that. He said, he ended thought I walked more straightly than others went under that name. I said, it was trew. I was a whill bred under presbitery, but I had beene in other parts of the world, wher church government was not made so greate a mater of as by some in this country; but whatever was past, I tooke it not well to goe under names. I had receaved such favours from his Ma^{tie}, and made such professions to him, that I hoped he would not suspect I would deal unstraightly; no, it would be found I would serve his Ma^{tie} as faithfully as others, with my life and fortune, even in preservation of his ecclesiastike government (I had almost said), but I held as readily as if I had gote a bishoprike. I said, I hoped he would not say any mistakes had fallen out had made me chang my way to him. He said, ther were mistakes ended; he knew no ground for them, but that he had brought a man in play¹ which he did in no ill designe. I was about to have asked him particulars, who that persone was who tooke it ill, and who were those went under the name of presbyterians, but the A. B. of Glasgow

¹ This probably alludes to the Lord Commissioner Rothes, whose credit was then on the decline.—*Vide* BURNET's *Hist.* vol. i. p. 240.

came upon us, and interrupted us ; so I kissed his hands without further clearing. He said, ther was a friend of mine who was once a friend of his, but¹—and I cannot really tell you more of it ; only I hope you are one of the presbiterians walks not so straight as I. This is a confused account of a confused discourse. Adieu.

Feb^r 2,

67.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Edin^r, Febr^r 2,

67.

MY LORD,

You have inclosed ane abreviate of the returne those my L. Com: called together had made to his Ma^{ties} grations letter. I was, I acknowledge, in the debate for pressing the declaration no further than formerly, to all in trust, because I feare many may be included that resolve to leave peaceably, because I think a severe censure should follow the refusall of his Ma^{ties} pleasure, and I know not if it be fitte at present to take so many in taske nedlesly. I offered a ty I hoped answered the end, against which it was not easie, even on the pretended scruples of the disaffected, to find ane evasion ; it was to ty them to live peaceably, not to beare armes against his Ma^{tie}, or his comission, nor to harbour or assist declared rebels. This, I hoped, few would refuse ; and if any did, I thinke

¹ The letter "I" seems to have been erased here.

his Ma^{tie} might send them wher ther needed no troupes to watch over them. I was in all humility of the opinion, that so the peace were secured, the fewer were put to suffer for opinions at present the better. This was answered, by his Ma^{ties} giving a power to the counsell to offer the declaration or not as they found cause : which I feare will give the allarme, and disquiet unstable spirits. This was ended my humble opinion, and the reason of it, but I have yeilded to ane unanimous returne to his M^{tie} with the rest, for what ever my private opinion be, which by my oath I am bound to give freely, I will, in prosecuting his Ma^{ties} service, allways follow the way prescribed by his Ma^{tie}, and those he intrusts. I shall only ad this, that I dare not conceal ; I thinke we need the more troups : all the other articles I thinke of less consequence, only I wish his Ma^{ties} magazins were well stored. It will not be time when ther is need to send to England. I thinke to goe home the nixt weeke after the counsell day, but before I goe you shall have the account of what is done about Cowell. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

It will take another post, before I can give your Lo: a full account of the effect of the treist betwixt M. Montrose and me ; all I can say is, if it end not, it shall be so as your Lo: shall know the par-

ticulares, and that I shall be willing his Ma^{tie} know them : but I thinke it shall not come to this.

The president of the Session hath beene ill these two days ; it was given out it was but a cold, but a palsie is feared, and yesternight he was almost speechlesse : this day he is better, and passes his time at cards ; but it may stike to him. If his place were void, most in Scotland would find but one to fill it. Consider of it, for some would, it may be, be for the Advocate, to make rounge for another.

My L. Com: seemes to be in some doute who to fill in, in the blanke commission for settling the Highlands. He promises to tell me more of it to day or to morrow ; it is resolved, upon a motion I made, that the chiefe landlords, and chieffes of clans in the Highlands, compeire once in the yeare in Ed^r. The list is not yet made up, but I have made up one ; when it past, your Lo: shall have a double.

In settling the militia, I find myselfe concerned to be heere, and I feare I cannot ; that, in short, I will underetake for is, my wassals and ther tenants, and my owne tenants, and the name of Campbell, who hold of his Ma^{tie}, and desire to joine with me. If any other ly so as that they fall in to me, I shall take or leave them as shall be thought fitte ; but these I have named doe ly as contiguous as Highland ground will suffer. Before I goe I shall send your Lo: a kind of mape and a modell, but I confesse both the sesse and militia will be hard in one yeare. Adieu.

Febr 9,

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Ed^t, Feb^r 14,

67

MY LORD,

Mr Sharpe shew me a letter this morning, desiring him to forbid me to goe out of toune, till I heard from your Lo: which I hope will be on Sunday nixt ; for I have staid long beyond my resolution, and both the busines of the shire and my owne particulares calls me home, for I have not gote above the sixt part of my rent this yeare, and whill I am heere, people are mad craving, for the want is gen^l. My L. Montrose bargain and mine is not fully ended, nor, I thinke, scarce shall at this present ; but we are allmost in speaking termes, and I thinke the communing shall not give up : but if we end not at present, the use I intend to make of the time I gaine, will be to engadge my friends in Argyll, and to take my measures what mony I can raise betwixt and the first of June, before which time none of us can doe any thing at law. That it sticks at is the warrandice he should give me of Cowell.

I did claime absolute warrandice, seing I gave full price, at least more then any other would give ; but I have past from that, and craves only warrandice from particulare incumberances I have condeshended on : if he thought them light incumberances, he might

the better warrand them, but I believe he thinks them not small. I find some inclinations rather to lessen the soume then warrand me, and if he be freak, I will be well natured, and put myselfe to the trouble of maintaining the right he gives me.

We have daily complaints out of the west of the condition of that country, that under pretence of sequestrating the estates of rebels, many that are innocent suffer ; but I am very hopfull all we heare of it is not trew, for it is horrible, and I have heard of few proufes, and I find my L. Com: at all occations offer to give full redresse, wher any wrong is done, and yet no complaint hath hitherto been before the councell. Only being this day in the Abbey, I found one resolving to give in a petition to the councell against a quarter m^r sent him a charge I saw, wherof the inclosed is a just double ; he says he was accordingly quartered on, and yet he protests nether he nor his nephew was owing that man a groate. My L. Com: did not suffer the bill to be read, but will take it away privately, and I wish ther may be no more of it. I desire not to medle with things of this nature, but without taking notice of me, I wish your Lo: would be serious with L. Gen^l D(alzell) that abuses of this kind may be prevented ; for there is a greate cry, and, if I may say it without offence, the lesse the soldiery medle, except in securing the peace, the better : what is taken upon the account of disaffection, I wish may come into his Ma^{ties} coffers. If your Lo: nixt give me leave, I resolve home the day after, for my wiffe hath been very neare miscarriing of quicke child, which hasts me, tho shee be bet-

ter, and I hope well. Your Lo: must not open the inclosed,¹ for there is a secrete in it concerns Grassam colledge. The aquavite is this day shiped; the litle barle, thrice marked on the end, hath a roote grows in the Highlands we call curmeile, in steade of liquoras.

FOR YOUR LO:

Edn^r, Feb^r 16,
67.

MY LORD,

I am now resolved to stay heere one weeke more, to waite your commands. This morning I was at the examination of those that are suspected to be accessorie to the designe of the rapt of the Registers daughter in law, which doubtlesse you have heard of.² I make no question, Mr William Dundas the advocat, in whose house shee was, upon the knowledge and contrivement of it; if the Register, or some persone who would have followed it so smartly, had

¹ Probably a letter to Sir Robert Moray.

² This alludes to Elizabeth Dundas, daughter and heiress of Sir James Dundas of Newliston. Her mother, Agnes, daughter of Sir William Gray of Pittendrum married, secondly, Sir Archibald Primrose, Lord Register of Scotland, and Miss Dundas finally became the wife of John, Earl of Stair, to whom she bore the celebrated Field-marshal, John Earl of Stair. The following notices, from the Records of Privy Council, are all that have been discovered respecting the affair in question:—

“ 14 FEB. 1667.

“ The council give commission to the Earls of Argyle and Dumfreis, the Register,

not beene concerned, shee had not returned not quickly, and many would but laugh at it ; but now I know the Register will take it very kindly if you concerne yourselfe in it, and that any thing came from his Ma^{tie} to quicken the councell to looke after it.

The settling the Highlands is now asleepe againe ; we have a reporte to day that a greate number of broken highlanders have broken up the tolbooth of Bamfe, and made Patrike Roy M'Gregore his escape, who killed the Laird of Meurus.¹

Advocat, and Justice Clerk, or any two of them ' to be a committee for trying of the late rapt committed upon Elizabeth Dundasse—to examine all persons,' &c. and particularly to take tryall of Mr Williame Dundasse his cariage in that effair, and that in the mean tyme he to continow prisoner as at present. And to report."

" 21 FEB. 1667.

" Considering that a most violent and barbarous rapt was attempted on the tuelt of this moneth be William Dundasse, brother to Dundasse of Mortoun, his servant Charles Daniell, George Pringle, James Thomson, and Thomas Giespey, doe therefore command his Majesties subjects to seize upon the saids persons and to enter them prisoners," &c.

" 28 FEB.

Letter from the King on the subject.

" We have bein informed of a great insolence committed by ane officer of our regiment under the command of the Earl of Linlithgow, assisted by some other souldiers, in violently carying away a gentlewoman called Dundas, &c.—The council recommends the committe to call before them such persons as they shall think fitt, and to examine them upon oath anent the said mater," &c.

¹ John Lyon of Muiresk. His son was also murdered with many treacherous circumstances.—See ARNOT'S *Criminal Trials*, p. 136. Macgregor, and Patrick Drum-

I am very much dealt with to interpose with your Lo: for cornetts places to my cusines, my L. Rollo his second sone,¹ and Sir Robert Mongumerys brother,² they are both pretty young men, but I am sensible enough the difficulty is greater to get them such places than ther relations doe imagine.

Colline Campbell, late provost of Glasgow, is become very rich in land and mony, and worth at present 6 or 7 thousand pound sterline, ready for a bargain, which would be of greate use to me, if I could get him to louse his purse upon my land, when mony is so scarce. In order to this, I have found a way by the last right your Lo: procured to me from his Ma^{tie} about the vassals, and by buying in some comprisings were on Achinbreks³ land, holden of his Ma^{tie}, and

mond, an accomplice, were tried in Edinburgh 25th of March, 1667. Their sentence was, to have their right hands cut off, to be hanged at the cross of Edinburgh, and their bodies to be hung in chains on the gallows between Edinburgh and Leith. In a MS. abridgement of the justiciary record, belonging to Henry H. Drummond, Esq. is the following notice respecting Macgregor :—" *Nota*, This Patrick Roy Macgregor was a most notorious and villanous person, but of a most couragious and resolute mind. He was a little thick, short man, red haired, and from thence called Rob Roy; he had red eyes like a hawk, and a fierce countenance, which was remarkable by every person. He endured the torture of the boots in the Privy Council with great obstinacy, and suffered many stroaks at the cutting off his hand with wonderful patience, to the great admiration of the spectators, the executioner having done his duty so ill, that the next day he was deposed for it."

¹ Archibald Rollo, afterwards a major in the army, second son of James, second Lord Rollo, by Lady Mary Campbell, daughter of Archibald, seventh earl of Argyll.

² Another Lady Mary, daughter of Earl Archibald, married Sir Robert Montgomery of Skermorly. Her second son, Henry, an officer in the army, died without issue.

³ Sir Duncan Campbell of Auchinbreck.

some other such methods, to put him in my reverence altogether, for a thousand pound sterline and upwards, Achinbreke was owing him ; this may be some ty upon him, and it is all the use I would make of it, to put him to buy my lands rather than anothers ; yet seing he hath kindnesse for me, I would not doe all by the strong hand, wherefore if your Lo: think it pertinent to speake of a knight-hood or rather a knightbarronet for him, or his sone, I doute not, with these two strings in my bow, to doe my bussnes.

Edr, Febr 21, 67.

MY LORD,

Yesterday morning Haltone¹ told me your Lo: had writen to him in favours of one of my brothers in law, and that he was engadged to Collintons² sone so farre, that he could not easily retreate ; wherefore, I did not only freely passe from my compearance, but I shall desire your Lo: may allow him to performe his promise and resolution ; and if any other occation offer for ether or both these two young gentlemen, I entreate your Lo: may remember of them. I shall in the mater of the justiciarie as you advise, as neare as I can. I expect to end with M. Montrose to morrow. Adieu.

¹ Charles Maitland, afterwards third Earl of Lauderdale. He married Elizabeth Lauder, heiress of Halton.

² Sir James Foulis, a Lord of Session, with the title of Collinton.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Edinr, Feb^r 23,

67.

MY LORD,

I am going out with E. Haddintone¹ to retorne on Monday makes this so short, yet it shall tell you, that yesterday, before my L. Commissioner M. Montrose and I shooke hands, and dranke others healths. I am to pay him one hundreth thousand merks; I take single warrandice, of him, and I give him security of the land, with absolute warrandice, and gentlemen worth ten thousand merks of yearly rent, cautioners: I enter at Whitsunday, and I have three Candlesmesses to pay, in three equall shares, but am to pay anuell from Whitsunday. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

M'Laine is fled to court to crave a discharge of some debts he owes, and a personall protection against others. For the first, it is

¹ John, fourth Earl of Haddington.

so unreasonable that I doe not feare it. Your Lo: knows the E. of Craford's right, and what he owes me is ether cleare debts and an adjudication following thereon, which I have assigned to my fathers creditors, and is most of what they will get, or it is few dutys resting to me, or money I have payed the Exchequer for him, and I feare not his Ma^{tie} will doe any thing in these to my prejudice, or the creditors ; but because I know much of his busines will be to tell stories, and invent calunnies, I entreate your Lo: to send me doubles of any informations he gives in, that I may satisfie your Lo: anent them. And for a protection to him, if he will ether take creditors of E. Craford and me, or give us possession of land, ether by way of wedset or heritable sale, we shall be content his persone be free ; but whill he refuses to give us what is in his power, it were to encourage him never to pay us a groate. If he should get any protection he will, I know, plead his brothers service, but he would find some other way of reward then a discharge of debts that belong to subjects, and for his owne services, I belive they will be very insignificant.

The M. of Montrose and I have this day signed our minute, and discharged other of all clags and claimes, hinc inde, so that he will not have me to seeke for what he wants of the soume in his decreate. Adieu.

Edr, March 2,

67.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Edr, March 5,
67.

MY LORD,

I have seene your Lo: to my L. Comm. It will be of singular advantage for some vessels to have liberty of trade ; it would bring in mony, and doe no hurt, and for that of the stope of any thing going from this to Irland, I thinke it will be but litle losse to us. Some coale and salt goes, and some iron and lint we send ; the first two I thinke they cannot want, the other two they will be stealing over, if ther were peace, for at present we have litle to send them. I have put of my journey till Fryday. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I have now taken my leave of my Lord Commissioner, and intend homwards to morrow. All the papers betwixt the M. of Montrose and me are extended, and signed, only the disposition to me is consigned in his hand, and the two contracts of wedset in mine, till the cautioners subscribe. He desired me to write to your Lo: to be-

friend him in his claime to his Ma^{tie} of the od sixteen thousand pounds, wherof my L. of Glasgow will speake to you ; and tho it be most improper for me to desire his Ma^{tie} to pay that which he was graciously pleased to burthen himselfe with in my favours, yet I doe very seriously entreate the M. of Montrose may be satisfied, if he can fall on any way that is reasonable, and that he may feell the benefite of our setlement ; for tho I will not quite my old uncle for my new, realy I thinke we shall live in friendship. I write a whill agoe of some interest I had in Perthshire, but seing my L. Montrose and I am settled, I am content that that interest of mine, the Earle of Airths¹ interest, the Earle of Murrays, and some other lands that ly contiguous, make up a foote regiment in the militia to be commanded by the M. of Montrose. This offer I find he takes kindly ; and my L. Com: is satisfied with it, so if it come in your Lo: way I shall desire your Lo: may countenance it. Ther will be in Perthshire another foute regiment, and a number of horse, either of which my L. Perth² may have, for the Sheriffe hath litle interest. Adieu.

Ed^s, March 12,

67.

MY LORD,

As I past by Dunbarton on my way hither, I secured Hill of Beth,³

¹ William Earl of Airth and Menteith.

² James, third Earl of Perth.

³ Probably John Cunningham of Hill of Beeth, who, in the year 1622, was compelled to pay a fine of £206, 4s. 4d. Scotch, for having, with many others, wasted Lord

on of W. Wallace baill. After he found he was prisoner, he offered to catch W. Wallace, if I would promise to deall for him, which I was farre from granting; but seing he knows the way, he may the better ly for him: I have two in Ireland in search of him and his father, but I have no returne from them since they went.

I was at Mugdoke¹ as I came heere, and have since gote all the cautioners I promised, to signe, so the papers are presently to be exchanged.

Before I came from Ed' ther was severalls of the places in the session in hazard to be vacant, and having occation to speake with my L. Staires, and some others, who understood best of the subject, the persons they wished me to recommend to your Lo: were Mr Johne Harper, Mr James Cheape, Mr David Dinnure, and Mr George Norrowell.² The first of these I know my L. D. Hamiltone will be much for, and realy I thinke none of them is fitter for it; it is trew he had his slipes, but I am confident he would endeavoure to repaire his credit.

Ther was no small debate in the last Convention about the way of raising the sesse, and of the proportion betwixt shires; and it was singly upon the account of his Ma^{ties} service, that no interest of mine might retard it, that I yeelded to my L. Com: to be against revalu- ing the shires, on with another: for we are very high by our being

Queensberry's estate, and joined the forces under Colonels Strachan and Ker, in the year 1650.

¹ A castle belonging to the Marquis of Montrose.

² Four celebrated lawyers; yet none of them appears to have attained to the highest offices of the profession.

wast, and neglecting it at the first valuation, and not sending commissioners in time of the usurpers. This debate of proportions will be fresh and greater, whenever any new cesse is to be laid on ; I doe therefore humbly offer to your Lo: whither it be not fitte, that a commission of revaluation be apointed in the interim. If this be, I shall aply myselfe to it ; if not, I beg your Lo: advice how to get some ease, that we be no dearer than our neighbours, or most in Scotland.

I hope by this time the aquavite is arrived, but it will be yet too new for a tryall. Adieu.

Inveraray, March 28,
67.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Inveraray, May 11,
67.

MY LORD,

Sir R. Murray will give your Lo: ane account of all, I hope, I need to say concerning the Bishope of the Illes, or M'Leane ; ther busines, and what they are, will certainly be understood before they be long ther, and I hope I need to feare none of them.

The paper my L. Montrose signed to secure the vassalls in Cowell, and which remains in your Lo: hands, as I remember, was a part of our communing, and he desires it may be put into my hand ; for after I am perfectly informed of his procedoure with them, it is like I will discharge him, and give him up his engagment. And if it

be necessare, your Lo: shall have a letter from him to that purpose, but I would not seeke it till I advertised your Lo:

My wiffe and her litle ones present ther service to you. Adieu.

Inveraray, May 27,
67.

MY LORD,

I will promise no more long letters, least I breake, yit have at you. You promise me your nixt will please me; I long for it. E. Craford and I did both write long letters about M^cLeane, when he went; if they came not to E. L. hands, they must be miscaried; I never gave any but to Mr Sharpe, and in his absence, to Henry M^cKie. Allways, I have writen most of what I need say to you since, and I have now writen to E. L. at so greate lenth that I feare I be troublesome; pray you take the keeping of my letter till that bussines be over.

You understand me very right about P. M^cGr(egor); it will concerne both the honour and peace of Scotland that that bussines be tried to the bottome.

I resolve to try seede and beries, tho I will not give over transplanting.

The liburnums are the peasecod tree, I thinke, sometimes called hoburne; they are excellent for a hedge, as plyable and a better timber then sach, with a long bushie yellow floore.

The good of plaine is, that it gets leaves very early; but I plant

none very near my house, for within walls, except one row, I will have no barren trees, unlesse it be in hedging : you know the bounds, and none of the barren trees stand on the levell of the house, save at a greate distance. The hills serve me for shelter, and the house, if I were planted as I desing, will looke at a distance as if it stood on the tope of a wood, and yet few barren trees are within twise twelve score. The firre, oake, and elme I trust most to ; I am fallen much in conceate with elne, and it grows well with me : I sent every wher to get seed, and was promised as much as I needed, but I have, I find, of mine owne some foure or five, which were not farre from the house, have presently more seeds than leaves on them, which will be ripe in a fortnight ; if ther be any feare, it is that the trees are but young, within twenty yeares or lesse.

My gardine is now finished, all save the walls, which I intend not till nixt summer ; I have only ane inch and a halfe of very fine gravell to lay on after : now doe not feare hardnesse, for when the wheell barrows rune on the wakes, they make no impression, and I have the gravell so neare, that it will be easier once in a yeare or two to scrape of two inches of the gravell, and lay them new, then to weede them ; and in that time no weeds at all will grow.

I was willing to have mette for my brother, but he hath not yet called me : Mr Andrew Kerre is turned his absolute tutor : he is raising what money he can, but keeps all up from me. I am sory the herring you gote were spoiled, but I thanke you for telling me, to see if we can mend it ; I cannot thinke they lay any time without salt : they pretend it was ther saltnesse, and tho they had pickle liquur,

it may be it was put in at Ed^r, for the earliers never fail to let it rune out, and to ease ther horses burthen ; some thinks they were salted too shoone in the yeare.

I will now need your directions about the salt panns, for I am going to Kintire for a fortnight, but I must hast bake to the butter-sapes.

G. Campbell did refuse to submite differs betwixt him and me to E. Lowdon, Staires, and Cesnoke¹, so the last session I gote him turned out of a rounge of land close at my gate ; I offered latly to submite the price of his house in tounne to Colline Campbell, but he would not, so I resolve this session to give him another tryall, for he is the worst nighbour I have.

M^cNachtanes people are still very foolish ; his wiffe will needs hinder me to worke at a lime craig I have right to, as you will see by a copie of paper Abruchell will send you, tho I had no more to say to him. Adieu.

If my petition or information need amendements pray be at the paines to se them transcribed.

MY LORD,

I was hasted bake from Kintire beyond my expectation, by the news of my wiffes being brought to bed ; shee is, I thanke God, as well as ever I saw her in so long time, after such a storme : and I

¹ Sir Hugh Campbell of Cessnock.

am very hopfull both the litle ones shall live, but they may pray God send peace, for if the cesse continow, ther will be no tochers for them ; in good earnest, I never saw such a want.¹

I have, as I had time, laid new ways to catch that rouge, and I am confident some of them will hite ; he hath, I heare, put on a white periwige, for he is a blake fellow, and plays the physitiane, and hath killed more that way then by his sword ; in some places he hath given out he had my passe, but I am confident he shall get his reward at the end. I have tryed ther cariage in Kintire as narrowly as I could, and I am still confident none of those your Lo: mentioned hath beene ther ; M'Cormike we believe gen^{ly} was killed :² ther was no minister of the name of Chambers with the rebels, but ane Chambers, a brother of Gaidgarts³ ther was, but I am confident was never in Kintire. And of Mures there was never but three, one went three yeares agoe, one is in Dunbarten Castle, and one is no phanatike is still ther. To try the mater further, I desire to know particularly in what house, or what place of Kintire, that man pretended to have seene these men ; I could then question these the more strictly ; in the meane time, I have turned out my Bailly, and have set one I can trust to live at every landing place, to take notice who comes or goes from that. I cannot at this distance see it with

¹ These children died in infancy.

² Andrew Macormick, an Irish minister, was killed at Pentland. Kirkton says that he was commonly called " the goodman."

³ That is, Gadgirth's. " Robert Chalmers, brother to Gadgirth," is mentioned in the " Proclamation discharging the receipt of the rebels, Decr 4, 1666."

my owne eys, but I acknowledge, any that lives ther, and hath the charge of the country, may easily know of all that can be harboured, for the country is but narrow, and ther are but few landing places. I have some incling that Mr Jolme Carstaires¹ was in Kintire two or three nights, but I cannot yet prove it ; but if it be trew, I will find it out : if it was, it was just after the breake ; he was since seene in Ireland, in a suite of light grey cloaths.

The clan Camerone have latly fallen in blood amongst themselves, but I hope to get justice done on the murtherers by common consent. Adieu.

Inveraray, June 10,

67.

In February last one Mr M'Loy, ane Irishman of the age of 34 yeares or therby, indifferent tall, very druken faced in his aile, but otherways of a pale complexion, came to Kintire from Irland. He gave it out he was forced in by stresse of weather, that he intended for Arran, that he was grivously oppressed by the Marquis of Antrame², told a number of idle ranting news, and had a deale of od discourses, ill knute together ; which, with his other extravagancies, made him to be taken notice of by every body in the streete of Loc-head in Kintire. Wherupon producing severall passes, wherein he was named M'Loy, one in the company offered to prove one of the passes, pretended to be subscribed by the governour of Derry, to be coun-

¹ Mr John Carstairs, minister at Glasgow, never actually joined the insurgents.—Vide Wodrow, B. 2. C. 1.

² Randal Macdonnell, Marquis of Antrim.

terfeit. Wherupon, next morning before day, he stoll away in a boate to Arrane, and was never heard of since. If this be the informer, trust nothing but what he proves; let him condeshend on persones and places, and all shall be tryed to the full.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Ed^r Jull 4,
67.

MY LORD,

I am desired to give a cover to the inclosed, and I doe very seriously recommend it to you; it is somewhat fuller of expostulation then I expected, but he expressed himselfe fully to me, and from all I can gather, ether from his discourse or cariage in other things, I beleive he resolves really to be in freindshipe with you. He did at greate lenth acknowledge to me what favours he had of your Lo: after his Ma^{ties} happie returne, and acknowledged all was done for him then was by your Lo: meanes; he vindicate himselfe that your Lo: was not in his billette¹, and in the end said he knew no ground of your being colder to him, but the differs that fell out betwixt him and me; and on this occation said it was trew he had concerned him-

¹ This alludes to Lord Middleton's act of balloting, by which twelve of the most considerable royalists, particularly Lords Crawford and Lauderdale, were to be incapacitated from public trust.

selfe to stand in my way, but he would doe so no more ; but said in genⁿ and named some particulares wherin I should find a greate chang. I would not let your Lo: last part of it light, but laught at it, and said what ever had past, or on what ever ground, I would serve him at your Lo: hands what I could. I beleive the first particulare he will try will be to get somthing out of the forfeited estates in the west, or some way or other, for I find not he is yet very rich. I find him very well satisfied with any late change his Ma^{tie} hath made, and I find he is not tempted with our militia. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Edr Jully 16,
67.

MY LORD,

I have, out of my desire to shune any publike debate with the Duke of Lenox¹, at the Earle of Tweedales mediation agreed to pay 600^{lbs} St^r for the freedome of driving our cows without trouble to the markettes. The inclosed will shew your Lo: the beginning of our trouble was very small, and occasioned only by our willingnesse to serve the Duke his predecessouars, with whome we were in perfect friendship ; but the abuse of the exaction had no end, but grew

¹ Charles, sixth Duke of Lennox.

to this very day. The Chan^{ll} Glencairne¹ gave it the first greate advance, farre beyond all former pretences, after it had lyen over many yeares. I did last winter setle for this, and the deputation of the admiralty, with L. Cochrane² for 400^{lb} St^r; but a new commissione was in the mean time granted to trouble us, and nothing performed. I am now to have the deputation of the admiralty on the west coast, during my liffe, and 19 yeares after, excepting prizes: many have deputations without any payment; however, I desire peace, and if the Duke refuse what his trustees have agreed to, I beg only his Ma^{tie} may understand the case, that I refuse no duty to his Ma^{tie}, and I shall with litle anxiety take any venture of the issue of the processe. If the Duke tell your Lo: of groates were due upon each cow, ther was no such mater; but when the oppression grew, they tooke groates of every cow, instead of ten fatte cows, not at Dunbarten only, but 40 miles from it, till the exaction is multiplied ane hundredth times.

M. Montrose will expect some retorne to what he write to your Lo: as I goe home, which I intend, God willing, within ten or twelve days.

My resignation, I hope, by that time shall be ready; and I shall send one with it can answer your Lo: any question occures, and alter whatever you find amisse; The Kings advocate consults it, so your Lo: neede not doute the law part, nor the proufes. Adieu.

¹ William, Earl of Glencairne, appointed high-chancellor of Scotland for life. 19 Jan^r, 1661.

² William Lord Cochrane. He died before his father in 1679.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I have now at lenth gotten a scroll of such a signature ready as I desire upon the resignation I intend to make. And because ther may be severall things in it which may need explanations, and some proufes, I have desired Abruchell¹ to cary with him such papers as I thought most necessary for that purpose. The rights of lands will be timously enough instructed of before the Exchequer, and for every other thing, I hope he shall be able to satisfie your Lo:; I have apointed him to conceeall nothing from your Lo: of the full purpose and intention of every word, or clause, and expression in the signature, and to ad, and paire, and alter by your Lo: direction, tho it were to the moulding new of the wholl, which he can doe. I crave pardone to beg your patience to heare him in the wholl particulars, tho it be tedious, for it will ease your Lo: the more of any trouble about it afterwards, if any letter be necessare to come allonge with it, you will be pleased to procure it.

The story of the Lady Drums² processe against me, and the succeste and the consequence, I leave to the bearer to relate, as likways

¹ Colin Campbell of Aberuchel.

² Probably Lady Mary Gordon, daughter of George, Marquis of Huntly; she was married to Alexander Irvine of Drum in the year 1643.

the story of stoping theeving in the Highlands, and all G. Campbell his pranks, and all litle storys concerns me: my wiffe, and your god-sone, and all the bairns can speake, present their service to you, and I to my Lady, and my Lady Yester, whom I wish a good houre. Adieu.

If your Lo: will be pleased, at Abruchels parting, to present him to his Ma^{tie} to be knighted, it will oblige him and some of his relations: I intend to employ him as my depute heere, and it will get him some respect.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Inveraray, Oct. 28,
67.

MY LORD,

I find Abruchell halfe distracted with your kindnesse to me, and your dispatch to him; he expects I should send your Lo: solemne thanks, which I am sure you doe not, yet I am sure nothing but absolute distraction can make me forget it.

I will not say you have made a man of me; it is hard to doe, and I heare that word was over abused E. T: (weedale) understands this) but I am sure you found me litle better then a muse.

Advise me what remains of my particulare ; command me in your owne as farre as I have breath. Adieu.

I hope your Lo: will be pleased to get Abruchell dobd, before he come away.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Inveraray, No^r 11, 1667.

MY LORD,

I must begine with your good sone ; when he heard of your grandchilds birth¹ he leapt, and danct, and sung, and said, "Now Lord godfather hath two of us, two Johnes : " but whither that be or not, he owns without sant cerimony, to be his brother ; now, if Abruchell be still ther, he can tell your Lo: ther is a thing called in the Highlands a coult, which is a relation they reckone stricter then to be brothers or cousine germans.

Abruchell writes to me your Lo: hath some thoughts to adventure some thing on the fishing trade ; if you doe, try if you can order it so that our returns from France and Spaine may be vented in England. I know not how it will stand with the English acts, but if it can be compassed, two or three thousand pound sterline of

¹ Charles, afterwards third Marquis of Tweeddale.

stoke or more may, I am confident, be laid out heere to as good purpose as in any place of Europe ; but take no parteners, but by my advice, for it will be a thing of another nature then you imagine, and I care not how few medle in it : only get us liberty to sell in England, and we shall buy heere as chape as you can reasonably desire ; for I have a cast of craft that every body must not know. Before you name them, I am free to receave E. T. (weedale), E. Kincardine, Sir A. Frazer,¹ but as few more as I can ; but if this cannot be done, our trade heere, to tell you treuth, is litle worth : for we have not a country to vent our returns, a vessell of 30 or 40 tune will bring in all we can spend, so that it is not worth the whill for your Lo: to medle in it.

The Laird of M'Laine will be on your Lo: for a protection. He sent his Lady heere, who promised to pay me 18000^{lb} he owes to me, against Candlesmasse, and to submite what satisfaction he should give for a decreete of adjudication for 200,000^{mks}, wherin my fathers creditors and I have a joint interest, to the President of the Session, L. Staires, and the Laird of M'Loid,² they three agreeing in one ; if he doe these two, which he hath not yet done, I am content he have it, otherways I beg His Ma^{tie} may deny it ; for he seekes but to shift, and denys what is in his power to give. Ther is one Doull, a Scots mans sone, will waite on your Lo: to kisse your hands ; his father is my acquaintance, I thinke a very honest man ; your Lo: will be pleased to looke favourably on him. Adieu.

¹ Probably Sir Alexander Fraser of Dores, physician to the King.

² John Macleod of Macleod.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Inveraray, Dec^{ber} 3,
67.

MY LORD,

I have sent your herrings and aquavitæ to Mr Sharpe, and some honey out of this same orchard ; they use in this country to take it with the aquavitæ, enstead of sugare ; the cuper hath made the barle too litle, and I have not time to helpe it now, but if you care for it, because it is Highland, I shall helpe it nixt yeare, God willing. My wiffe presents her service, and the bairns, to you, to my Lady, my Lady Yester, and her sone. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARY OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I remember, these two last conventions, ther was a greate deal of heate about the way of laying on the sesse ; and whither it be by way of taxation, or as in this last sesse, it is so unequall, that if any new occation of sesse offer, it may readily retard his Ma^{ties} service : and had done it last, if the endeavoures of some, and the hopes

it should not continow, had not diverted it. I doe, therefore, humbly offer to your Lo: whither it may not now be a fitte time for his Ma^{tie}, whill ther is no present hast, to apoint some to consider of the way of laying on of sesse, for afterwards, and the proportions. The way of sesse is thought more equall, and yet ther are greate disproportions betwixt one shire and another, which is worse then betwixt one man and another; in the way of taxation, ther are some so heavie, that it were impossible for them to beare a greate taxation, yet the cases are so few and so notoure, that I imagine they might be helped with consent: and providing the generality were equall, and none overburthened, I thinke a few to have ther old ease were no greate hurt, but ane advantage to his Ma^{tie}, for in reasone they ought to be most forward to advance what his Ma^{tie} needed. If such a way as this were fallen on, it might save some time to the first Par^t or Convention that were called to raise mony; this is but a fancie I vent to your Lo: if it doe no good, it shall doe no hurt. Adien.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Edr. Dec^r 22, 68.

MY LORD,

I know I need not recommend to your Lo: any concernment of my Lord Ballmerinos,¹ but in this case he hath so much need of

¹ John, third Lord of Balmerinoch.

helpe, that I hope your Lo: will allow me to tell you, that every body thinks it a mad distracted act the L. Cuper¹ hath done, and if some had not concerned themselves, it had not past in Exchequer without much flouting; it is true it is not ordinaire to refuse resignations which are voluntarie deeds, but what els can be done for my L. Ballmerino, I hope your Lo: will doe it. I am very glad to heare of my Lady Yesters safe delivery, and of your brave boy;² I wish you much joy in him. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I have writen this other, which I hope will give satisfaction to any stike may be about my signature; and in case your Lo: thinke not fit

¹ Lord Coupar was Lord Balmerinoch's uncle. A curious decision concerning this Lord was given by the Court of Session, 3d July, 1662. Lord Coupar, sitting in Parliament, took out his watch, and handed it to Lord Pitsligo, who refusing to restore it, an action was brought for the value. Lord Pitsligo said, that Lord Coupar having put his watch into his hand to see what hour it was, Lord Sinclair putting forth his hand for a sight of the watch, Lord Pitsligo put it into Lord Sinclair's hand, in the presence of Lord Coupar, without contradiction, which must necessarily import his consent. Lord Coupar answered, that they being then sitting in Parliament, his silence could not import a consent. The Lords *repelled* Lord Pitsligo's defence, and found him liable in the value of the watch.—*Morrison's Decisions.* 5626.

² Probably John, afterwards Lord John Hay.

to presse for ane order from his Ma^{tie}, I dare, for my interest, if your Lo: allow it, on your Lo: writing a private line to E. T(weedale), put it to a vote of Exchequer.

I am now fiting my accounts, and am, I confesse, a great deall in arire; but if your Lo: will be pleased to get ane order to the Commissioners of the Exchequer to pay Fordie, according to a former order, and ane act of the Exchequer, which hath hitherto taken no effect, I shall pay all presently. His Ma^{tie}, I know, remembers the debt, and S. R. M(urray) knows how tender Fordie was to presse untimously: I hope some time or other some other thing will be done for him. In the meane time this will be a favour to him, and a necessare favour to me.

I have another bargane with the Commissioners on foote, wherby they will, in two, or three, or foure yeare, get payment of what is due to themselves and E. Craford by M^cLaine, extending to forty thousand pounds, which otherways could not be payed, for aught I know, in twenty yeares. Adieu.

Your Lo: may leave my name in the order for Fordie, or put it out, as you please.

(Endorsed by the Duke, "Earle of Argyll, in Dec^r, 1668.")

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Inveraray, 6 May, 1669.

MY LORD,

I came here upon Friday last by the way of Pearthshyre, for reasones Erle Twedaill will tell you ; I brought Sir Joseph Douglas¹ w^t me, that at his returne he may tell my Lady stories of the Highlands, which I am confident my Lady will rather take upon trust then green to see.

I promised in my last, when I came here, to give your Lo: ane account of the reasones of my desire to have your Lo: allowance to wait upon you at Londone, in case your Lo: came not to Scotland this sumer ; and they are, in short, to give your Lo: ane accompt of the present state of my affaires, which by Gods providence, his Ma^{ties} favour, and your Los: kyndnes, are now in a conditione that some reckoning may be maid, what is frie to my familie, and legal convoyances can be maid, which could not so weill be done before. And having of late, both in my own familie and severall others about me, had many signall proofes of mortalitie, uncertaintie of the tyme and way of death, as I find it a dewtie to my familie to leave my affaires in some ordour, and bounds clere betwixt my chil-

¹ Probably Sir Joseph Douglas, son of William Douglas of Pumpherstoun, by Mary, daughter of Gilbert, Lord Somerville ; he was drowned going down to Scotland with the Duke of York, 1682.

dren, if it should please God to call me, so I think ther lyes a dewtie upon me, both in respect to them and your Lo:, to have yo^r advyce in it, that I pull not down what you have built up. The particulares of these things cannot be treated of at this distance; the maine thing, and indeed the only thing I know, that rests of consequence, and may breed me truble, and unhinge my vassals ryghts, which cannot be but very grievous to me, is the interlocutour of the Lords of Session I met with in winter; and said then a litle of it to your Lo: The legall pairt I leave to the informations my advocat hath drawne, which all the world cannot answer in law: but because I will never refuse, though I had ane hundreth great sealls, to putt my life and fortune in his Ma^{ties} hands, I shall remember yo^r Lo: a litle of mater of fact, and I doubt not, when his Ma^{tie} considers of it, he wold yet doe ovir againe what he hath done for me, if it wer to doe: much more now, be content to leave me to the course of law, my debate being foundeit on his Ma^{ties} royall prerogative, and the privilege of the Crowne.

Your Lo: knows that whill that estate that wes my fathers wes entirely in his Ma^{ties} hand, I never pleaded any interest in it, but with the burden of the wholl debt, though afterwards his Ma^{tie} wes graciouslie pleased to consider my conditione, and to burden my gift with no more debt than might, in some measour, consist with the preservacione of my familie. His Ma^{tie} was lykwayes graciouslie pleased to give me the right of my vassals estates, so farr as fell undir the foirfaultour; and albeit therby the propertie of most of y^r estates wold fall to be myne, and that I am forced wher I have

greatest kyndnes for them, to take out decreets against them, yet none of them can say I took a yeires rent from them on that single accompt; tho I have setled with nyne pairts of ten of them, and this is no great sowme for y^r sheare, considering the paines and expence I have been at.

Only in George Campbells case, in his houses in Inveraray, worth ane hundreth pund sterling, I took the benefite of my decreet, because he refused altogether to setle w^t me, and I wes desireous to be frie of his neighbourhead. When that decreet wes procured, he defended most contentiousslie, and left nothing unsaid that aither law or malice could prompt him to: so that in his case, I have ane ample practiqz of all I can pretend to. But at this tyme, the Lords wold not doe so much as read it, or my ratificatione, wherof I have inclosed a double of the clause which concernes that point. When I received my interloquoutour, I said, tho it was a delay, I wes weill pleased with it, because I feared no hurt from the hand they had putt me in. I went afterwards to the President, and told him, I was still pleased with my interloquoutour, but that the lords might doe thinges uncertaine knowledge; I wished him to read my decreet against George, and the clause of my ratificatione, which the Lords had not done, tho it lay upon ther table. He pretendeit he did not know it wes ther, but all that he could say against me wes, that my ratificatione wes not past in Excheq^r; which the Kings Advocats, my Lord Gosford, and Sir George Lockhart, who wer my advocats, had told me wes not necessar; seing it wes only ane ratificatione of ane act of a comissione under the great seall: but I can now answer this

sufficientlie, tho the Excheq^{rs} consent wes necessarie, for they have homologat my ratificatioune, by passing ane act, declaring that the passing my great signatour wes w^out prejudice of the creditours rights, by vertew of the act of the Comissionne, and the Ratificatioune following therupon ; which is all I crave.

This resolutione of wrytting to his Ma^{tie}, wes started in George Campbells case ; but upon my Lord Staires saying that the mater wes then in law, and that they satt ther to give justice according to law, and not to be his Ma^{ties} counsellouris, it wes waved at that tyme.

It is not fitt to say it at the barr, but it is the creditouris, and not the vassalls, that stickells ; for if this decreit goe against me, which is impossible w^out speciall ordour from his Ma^{tie}, very many of my vassalls wold be brocken for my fathers cautionrie, especiallie whill they have no releiff ; and to show yo^r Lo: my purpose, provyding the decreet pass in my favour, I doe assure you I will never exact beyond what I have told you, from any that have not settled : only I must keep it as ane awband over ther head, till they doe setle ; and if ever any complaint come to his Ma^{ties} eares of my rigour on the accompt of foirfaultour, I shall be content, at his Ma^{ties} sight, to discharge the wholl.

All that I desire is, that his Ma^{tie} will be graciouslie pleased in his returne to the Sessione, to say that he hath already declaired his pleasour fullie in that wholl affair, and to appoint them to doe justice according to law, and to direct his advocate to appear for his interest

I think a very litle word from the Earle of Twedaill, at his re-

turne, will doe the bussines ; And if that wer, I wold bestow the summer sessione on it : But if your Lo: find any difficultie in it, that I am not aware of, I will leave every thing till I wait upon you, and informe your Lo: more particularlie about it. I confes it is hard that whill Marques Huntlie caries decreets of the same nature without a hushe, whill he exacts the rigour, and yet hath no express clause in his ryt, that I shall be putt to get his Ma^{tie} declair himselfe the second tyme.

My Lord, after I had writen this once over, and begune it againe, I was afraid you should (not) read my scribling on this sinking paper, which hath made me use a hand, whose head I am sure knows nothing of what he writes : my nixt, its like, may be from Tober Morry. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

Ed^r 17 Feb. 70.

MY LORD,

I find my Lord Montrose and Pitcurs¹ signaturs cannot passe without a taxt duty, such as are usuall in course, unlesse your Lo: doe of new signifie his Ma^{ties} pleasure concerning them ; and therefore they are delayed to be presented, till your Lo: procure them the

¹ Sir James Haliburton of Pitcur.

favoure you proposed for them. I thought not to have beene here till now, but ther hath been a great storm, hath made it impossible to goe any way in coach ; but I intend, God willing, now to goe on Monday. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I came heere in obedience to your Lo: commands, to waite upon E. T.(weedale) but how usfull my being heere hath beene to your Lo:, or how pleasing to myselfe, will be fitter to discourse of, when I have the happinesse to waite upon you, then to write of at this distance ; and therfore I shall wave it : only I beg that during that time, your Lo: will believe I am what I am bound to be to your Lo: on many accounts. I know not if on the bake of this I should tell your Lo: a story, which I concerne myselfe no more in then you will allow me ; and is not my complaint, as it may be, will be suggested. Upon Thursday at the councell, a desire was given in that E. Atholls gift of sheriffe shipe might passe the great seall per saltem, which was refused ; the gift caring, it should passe in Exchequer, and yesterday it was stopt in Exchequer. I did not open my mouth in ether of the occations, nor came it ever to a vote, it was so flatly refused ; but seing it is stopt, it may be your Lo: would not afterwards find it amisse to write two lines to E. T.(weedale) that it were no

further prest till you saw him, for ther is something in it I may not write. I did not really thinke to write of this particulare when I begane to write, but I resolve to use the freedome your Lo: hath beene pleased to allow me, till your Lo: forbid it, who ever be displeased at it. I thinke to goe out of toune once nixt weeke, that I may be amongst the first to waite upon you, and for that purpose I beg to know your Lo: diet, as neare as may be. Adieu.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

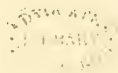
MY LORD,

The bearer heerof, the Shirriffe of Bute¹, desires your Lo: favoure in some particulares he hath in hand ; he is my friend and nighbour, and his family hath beene so to mine. My advice to him is, to pounnd his busines to your Lo:, and to follow it, or give it over, as you advise him ; and if your Lo: find it reasonable and faisible, I hope you will at my request countenance him. I rest,

MY LORD.

(The rest torn off.)

¹ Sir Dugald Stewart of Bute.



FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE OF SCOTLAND.

MY LORD,

I have inclosed a rude draught of the buriall place at Killimune.

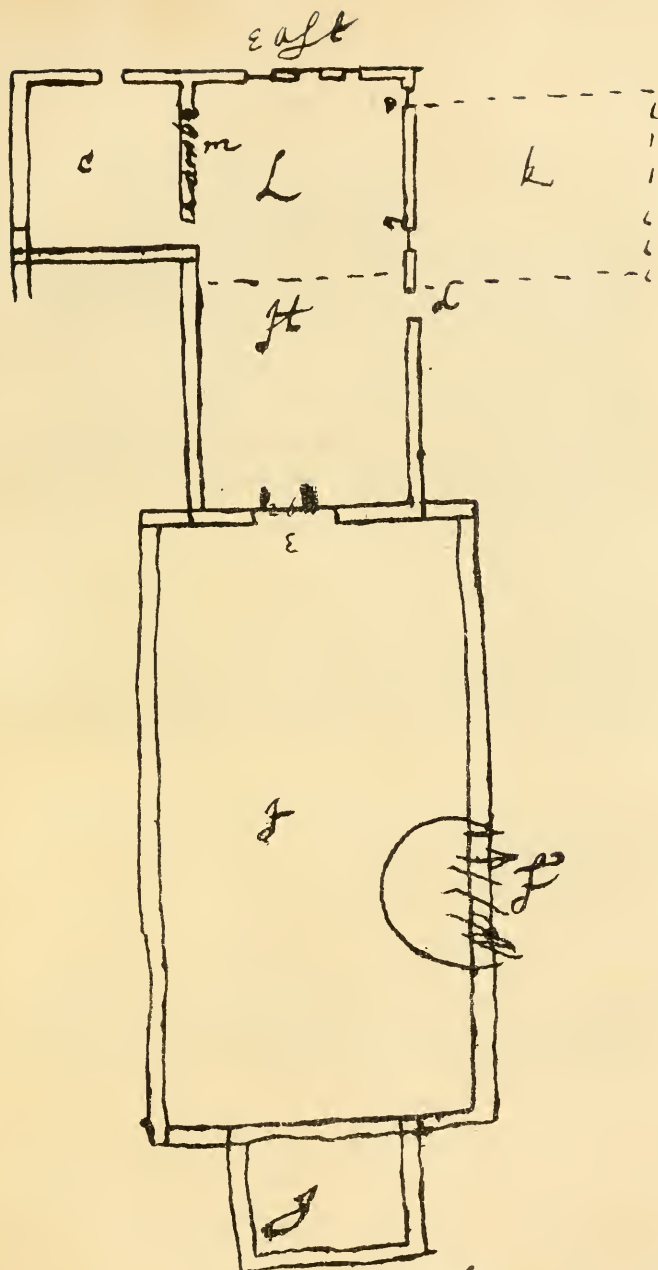
L. and H. is the Quire, c is the buriall place, wher my grandfather, and father, and others of our family, and some of my children ly; but it is full, save one place for my mother.

M. is ane olde tombe looking to the Quire, and the square of L. hath beene full of coffines of my predecessours, and ther children, but of late liberty was taken to bury some friends deshended of our family, and the square c lookt on our buriall place.

My designe is to have a tombe betwixt a and b, which is twelve English foute, just over against the other; and any afterwards, if they please, may build a buriall place k, and in the meane time I have shute up the Quire, and laid my wiffes body in it, in a lead coffine, under ground; so as it may safely be changed when the tombe is made up.

When your Lo: lets me know the designe of the tomb, I shall send you all helps I can, ether for arnes or efigies, which are not yet ready.

Now that S. R. M.(urray) is at London, he will ease your Lo: of this trouble, which I presumed to give my Lady at the beginning. Whatever is not of marble, by direction can be done at home, unlesse it be very fine worke in peices.



of the church E and F does of the people

Appendix.

The following Letters, addressed by Sir Andrew Ramsay, of Abbotshall, Bart. to the Duke of Lauderdale, are printed here, as they and Lord Argyll's come within the same period of the Duke's correspondence, and they are too few in number to constitute a volume of the series. Sir Andrew was long Provost of Edinburgh, and in that capacity forwarded the interest of the Duke of Lauderdale with the utmost zeal and success; nor did his services pass unrewarded. Kirkton says, "Sir Andrew Ramsay acquired the barony of Waughton, and the island, or rock, of the Bass, among the rest. This he sold to our King, as was reported, for some thousand pounds English, (wherein usually the procuring courtier had his share,) and a dear bargain it was." In the "Account of Scotland's grievances by reason of the Duke of Lauderdale's ministrie," it is stated that "Sir Andrew Ramsay, having neither for a just price, nor by the fairest means, got a title to a bare insignificant rock in the sea, called the Bass, and to a public debt, both belonging to the lord (i. e. *laird*) of Wachtou; my Lord Lauderdale, to gratifie Sir Andrew, moves the king, upon the pretence of this public debt, and a place of strength (like a castle in the moon), and of great importance, (the only nest of solan geese in these parts) to buy the rock from Sir Andrew, at the rate of L.4000 sterling, and then obtained the command and profits of it, amounting to more than L.100 sterling yearly, to be bestowed upon himself."

FOR THE R^T HONORABLE THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, SOL.
SECRETARIE OF STATE TO HIS MA^{TIE} FOR SCOTLAND,

THESE.

Edinbrugh, 29th of Dec^r, 1663.

MY MOST NOBLE LORD,

Please your Lo: I am verie myndfull of the debts wee owe you, and, if possible, would willinglie satisfie the mony part, before the

long day yo^r Los: hes been pleased to allow us ; and for that cause thought fit at this tyme to entreat y^r Lo: if you find any pourposse in his Mat^{tie} to rebuild the Abbay,¹ to accelerate the same, for if that work goe on, wee may make some money of the hewen work of the citadail,² which this winter hath whollie either beaten downe, or so lowsed, that the next storme will bring all to the ground. My Lord, I did more fullie speak herein to my Lord Twiddell, who or long I hope shall be with yo^r Lo:, so that I shall not trouble yo^r Lo: with any further, than to sey, I am most perfectlie,

My LORD,

Your Lo: most humble and

Most faithful servant,

A. RAMSAY.

¹ Holyroodhouse. Nicol, in his MS. diary, tells us, that on Wednesday, 13th November, 1650, the royal part of the palace of Holyroodhouse was burnt to the ground, "all but a little," being then occupied by the English troops. Feb. 1652. The Commissioners of the English Parliament, then at Dalkeith, sent masons and carpenters, who defaced all the royal insignia on the Castle, the Abbey, and the High Kirk, "they dung down the unicorn on the cross, and hung the crown that was upon his head on the gallows." In 1658, the repairs of Holyroodhouse were commenced by order of the Protector.

² The citadel at Leith.

FOR THE R^T HONORABLE THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAILL, HIS
MA: SEC^{RY} FOR SCOTLAND,

THESE.

Edinbrugh, 7th May, 1664.

MY LORD,

Yo^r Los: great and successfull care in the matter of trade is most kyndlie resented by those of the Borrowes; there is a metting of the most considerable of them to be at this place the 24th instant, if yo^r Lo: have anything to communicate to them, yo^r Lo: may signifie yo^r pleasure betwixt and then. My Lord, it is generally wished that the hopefull advance in that particular may be brought to a spidie and happie close, w^{ch} they doubt not by yo^r Los: endeavour will be attained, but if warrs should happin with Holand before its settlement, it will be a verie considerable losse to this nation. My Lord, I told Mr W^m Sharpe that the 250 lb. dew to yo^r Lo: at this inshewing terme should be paid, and now I beg leave to tell yo^r Los: self, that if yo^r Lo: desyre a thowsand or fyfteen hundreth pounds more, upon yo^r Los: advertisement I will essey to doe it; and I desyre that yo^r Lo: will acquent non therwith but my selfe, lest it should occasion me obstructions. My Lord, I most make bold to remember yo^r Lo: that I undertuke in yo^r Los: name to have that new signatur of imposition here before or about this tyme. And therefore let me humblie entreat yo^r Lo: to haist it downe, and let it be the verie same signatur w^{ch} was sent up, and was consulted before hand, and is what without any alterations will be most plea-

sing. My Lord, pardon my earnestnesse to see my owne undertake-
ing to this place performed in my owne tyme. Thus is all I darr
presume to trouble yo^r Lo: with, further then to sey, I am,

My LORD,

Yo^r Lo: most humble and

Most faithful servant,

A. RAMSAY.

FOR THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARL OF LAUDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE TO HIS MAJESTIE FOR THE KINGDOME
OF SCOTLAND,

THESE.

Edinburgh, 2d Sept. 1664.

MY LORD,

My unwillingnes to trouble yo^r Lo: together with the doubtful-
nes of the cittie Councils adhering to their sentence of depositor
past upon their clerk, S^r W^m Thomson, for his great neglect, and
pregnant presumption of malversation, in their affaires of greatest
concerne, made me refraine from acquainting yo^r Lo: hereof till
now, that all hops of remede is past. And now, my Lord, it being
the cittie councils act, its what I am bound to owne, and shall not
doubt of yo^r Lo: respects, neather to them nor myself, in yo^r Lo:
patrocine of us in this just act. My Lord, I pourpose once betwixt
and the terme of Mertimesse to give M^r Shearp a thowsand pounds
to account, which will compleat the half of our debt to yo^r Lo:, and

am hopfull, God willing, to satisfie the wholl a twelf monthe hence, and sooner if possible ; I trust yo^r Lo: shall never find me remisse in what I may serve yo^r Lo: in. As to the signatur, haveing oversaid in that matter alreadie, and being confident of yo^r Los: care, shall absolutlie leave it to your owne tyme. And now I shall add noe more, but desyre yo^r Lo: beleave, that noe man liveing shall serve yo^r Lo: with more faithfulness and affection then he who subseribes himself,

My LORD,

Yo^r Lo: most humble and obliged servant,

A. RAMSAY.

FOR THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAIL,
LORD SECRE^{RY} TO HIS MA^{TIE} FOR SCOTLAND.

MY MOST NOBLE AND DEAR LORD,

I had before this returned ane answer to yo^r Lo: of the 5th instant, if the continuall meetings of the Convention and comitties thereof had not tyd me almost to a constant attendance ; as also the consideration of the particulars therein mentioned not being my concernment, but that of the towne of Edin^r, did make me endeavour to try the pulse of the Magistrats, and of the clerk also, in relation to the desyre of those who solicit yo^r Lo: in the behalf of S^r W^m Thomson, that so I might with the greater fridome let y^r Lo: know what was in my power to effectuat ; which, from the sense of my dewtie I owe yo^r Lo:, and on all occasions shall expresse : and

particularlie, I doe well remember I did to the Earle of Tweddell upon his coming for London, who asked me what I could move the towne of Edinb: to doe for S^r W^m Thomson. And all that was craved, was, that what Mr Thomas Young the present clerk should condeshend to give S^r W^m, that upon Mr Thomas Youngs deathe or deposition, the towne might secure him in it for his lyfe, he haveing beene ane old servant ; to which I answered, that it wes more than I would undertake, haveing a multitude to doe wth, and to add, I may sey, and that a kitle multitude : and thereafter my Lord Tweddell said, what if yo^r Lo: should be moved to wreat hereanent ? I told my Lord that I was so sensible of yo^r Lo: favours to me, that I would not be wanting to serve yo^r Lo: in what I could. This is all that past. And now upon yo^r Lo: lettre I think I may be able, though not without difficultie, to get the counsel of Edinb: to condeshend to what was desyred by the Earle of Tweddell ; which is, in caise of Mr Tho: Youngs death or deposition, to burthen the nixt entrant or entrants successive to the annuitie to be agreed on, not exceeding the half profits of the chambre to S^r W^m dureing his lyfe, he acknowledging the justnes of their sentence pronounced against him, and promissing to demeane himselfe as a burges and neighbour ought to doe ; but that he should think of being reponed in the termes of the inclosed paper, drawn up by his Lo:, who was employed by him against the towne, it wes not to be imagined by me or any who knew the temper of the most knowing and interested in this cittie ; who are absolutely averse from makeing any clerk of longer endurance then the Magestrats, which are annuall, unlesse

continewed by election; neather was there any clerk had their office since Edinb^r was, in any other terms, till S^r W^m obtained it in the Usurper's tyme, and lykeways there is many acts of the Borrowes against gifts *ad vitam*: and the present magestrats is of the same judgment and resolution. I did also, in presence of the magestrats, communicat the paper to the present clerk, who openlie declared that as he was never made knowing to any such paper or agreement, so he would never agree thereto; nor could he advyse the towne of Edinb: to consent to any such agreement, so that finding both the magestrats and him so zealous in their opposition to that which I insinuat, what I have given yo^r Lo: ane account of as passing betwixt the Earle of Tweddell and me, which if desyred by yo^r Lo: I think may be obtained at their hands. And upon the matter it is that for which yo^r Lo: does wryte, as to S^r W^m's profit; and I hope yo^r Lo: will never think but the power of the towne over their servants is to be preserved. My Lord, I know noe reason for which so much could be condeshended to as I have promised to endeavour, but because yo^r Los: is pleased to move in it. And therefore, I think I may sey for the towne, and sure I shall swere for myself, that I shall ever continew my faithfull endeavours to doe your Lo: all the service that I shall be capable off, and yo^r Los: verie inclinations, when knowen, shall be to me as comands, to which I doe owe myself oblidge; and so shall evidence, when ever the opportunitie shall offer to me, that I am,

My LORD,

Yo^r Lo: most humble and faithfull servant,

A. RAMSAY.

FOR THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAIL,
LORD SE^{RV} TO HIS MA^{TIE} FOR SCOTLAND.

Ed^s, 19th Ap^l, 1665.

MY MOST NOBLE AND DEAR LORD,

I have heretofore so much cloged yo^r Lo: with my lettres, that I have just cause to judge that I have wearied yo^r Lo: with them ; and indeed, had it not been the occasion of this bearer, I would not have troubled your Lo: at this tyme ; but being one whom I know honours yo^r Lo: as much as any in the world, and to whom I stand much ingaged to for kyndnes, I have presumed (which I beg pardon for) evin to intreat for yo^r Los: favour in the behalf of his particular concerne. My Lord, the privat advantage I have, or looks efter, for my publick service, is but to serve my friends in their just interest, and if yo^r Lo: will honour me so far as to let him know that this my recommendation hath been of good use to him, it will be a singular respect put on me. My Lord, I am fraught with a desyre of that, that I cannot convenientlie attaine to at this tyme, evin to have the happines to be with yo^r Lo: for a litle, that amongst other things I might give yo^r Lo: ane true and honest account of the tumblings and turnings in this place since yo^r Lo: parture, and to w^{ch} I am assured yo^r Lo: is a strainger to the veritie as yet ; a great part whereof the bearer is able to give yo^rLo: acco^t. My Lord, whill I am in any publick condition, I shall endeavour to the utmost to serve you, and when I retier my self to

my gowne and my beads, I shall pray for yo^r Lo: prosperitie, and
in all conditions shall be readie to witnes my self,

My LORD,

Yo^r Lo: most humble and most faithfull servant,

A. RAMSAY.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDERDAIL, LORD
SEA^{RY} TO HIS MA^T FOR SCOTLAND,

THESE.

Edinbrugh, 16th Dec^r, 1665.

MY LORD,

Please yo^r Lo: I am exciding sensible of yo^r Los: favours, and
of late of that favour in varding me from the designed blow of my
enemies, who, throw lying and craftie endeavours, had misrepres-
ented me to my noble friends, and thereby abused them groslye;
w^{ch} throw tyme and patience I have overcome, so that now they lye
caught in the snare they devysed for me. And as I ever under-
stude it was yo^r Los: advyse and desyre that I should be carefull to
serve and oblige the Lord Comis^{rs} Grace, so truelie, as from yo^r
Los: advice, dewtie, and my owne inclination, I have carefullie en-
deavoured the same; w^{ch} at lenthe, blissed be God, I have been suc-
cessfull in: the publick good of this place was motive ennough for
me to have studied it, though my owne advantage and quyt had
not been concerned therein. And since I received yo^r Los: welcome

to my troublesom imployment, by yo^r Lo: to Mr Sharp, w^{ch} justlie may be termed so, and which is worse, there is no hops to see it deserve a better epithet, with ane encouragement also to send up the good town's signature, immediatelie thereafter I applyed my self to my Lord Com^{rs} Grace, and craved his allowance to the sending of [some words torn off] cheirfullie concured to the sending of it; and promissed not onlie to give it covert, but lykewayes said he would recommend it to yo^r Lo: and when it pleases yo^r Lo: to retorne it, I am hopfull it will passe smuthe enough here, notwithstanding of the noyse yo^r Lo: possiblie have been allarmed with, of a new started debait of prioritie betwixt the Lords of the Session and the Provost of Edinbrugh wthin the priviledges of the cittie, in w^{ch} matter I humbly beg yo^r Lo: leave to give yo^r Lo: this following troublesome information. Upon the expresse desyre and comands of the Council of Edinb: besyd the obligation and right of my owne office, I went some weeks agoe to the Colledge of Edinb: in ane affaire of the town's concerne; it was the election of the humanist maister; where my Lord Advocat with my Lord Stair came from the Lords of the Session, who have a conjunct right of nomination with the towne of that maister onlie, albeit the colation of that, and all other places in that Colledge, be properlie the town's. At this meeting the Advocat was pleased to debait against the Provost of Edinb. presidencie therin, howbeit he represented the Rec- tor for the tyme, and albeit the Advocat founded not upon the Colledge of Justice interest, but upon the interest of a third partie, to wit, the principall of the Colledge,¹ whose prudencie, modestie, and

¹ William Colvill.

conscience of the towns right, could not but persuade him to ced thereto. There was noe other debait there, nor at that tyme, but with the tacit consent of the Advocate, in the ordinarie civilitie giveing way. I cam furth, and thereafter downe the laine from the Coledge with him, takeing that place that my predecess^{rs} provosts of Edinbrugh had allways possessed past memorie, without so much as one word from the Advocat to the contrarie; yet the nixt day morning it was his will to complaine to the Lords of the Session, not touching the presidencie, but precedencie, of the Provost of Edinbrugh before himself, which was seconded by another complaint from my Lord President of that same nature done to himself. Whereupon they with the remainent lords, upon their owne respective particular, and comune interest,¹ the clerks were removed, that their sentence might be, if not the more legall and solemne, yet the more privat and secreat, as being without citation of partie to the proces, and without publict notar or clerk to the decret; which decret was thereafter sumarlie, I shall not sey pronounced, nor given, but taken by thamselves in their owne favours, decerning and ordaining all the Lords of Session, to have the place and precedencie, both of the Provost of Edinb. expreslie, and also of all noble-mens sonnns, without exception of either marquisses or ducks, as I am informed, for there is no publict record of the sentence; if so, howsoever publict or comune concerne it be, not only to the Provost and cittie of Edinb: but to all the noble families of Scotland; yea, I humblie conceive to the honor of the nation itself.

¹ Sic in MS.

After this representation of the case, yo^r Lo: I hop, will give me leive, though it be not necessar as to yo^rselve, who, in cases most abstruse, far more in one so clear as this, at first sees what is just, and (w^{ch} is always mixt in questions of this nature) what is also convenient ; yet, for my owne exoneration, on the interest not of my person, but office, and of the Good Townte, yea, and of our poor countrye, whereof yo^r Lo: is knowne to be so noble a patriot, and for w^{ch} causes alone, wthout any other recompense in the least, I mainetaine the charge (besyds the toyl) of the imployment upon my owne privat fortune, and now cannot but defend the dignitie thereof upon the same accounts. Whereupon, I sey, my Lord, I am confident yo^r Lo: will permit me to touche some reasons why the precedencie within the priviledges of the towne of Edinb: belongs to the Provost of Edinb: before any Lord of the Session. In this question I am confident the Lords will not oppose their owne decreet, seeing it was without citation or audience before themselves, which is a nullitie evin by naturs law ; it was taken by themselves in their owne favors, being both judge and partie ; herein their dignitie is indeed of themselves. It was in a matter not patrimoniall, but of dignitie, which, especiallie being of so comune a concerne, and belonging to the decorum and policie of the kingdome, in the office of the provost of the cheif cittie thereof, and dignitie of the wholl noble families, is, I humbly conceive, onlie proper to his Majestie himself, who is the fountain of all dignitie and honor ; and so most incompetent to them, evin though they themselves were not parties. And more, that sentence was never, and I trust never shall be, in actis,

nor so much as a clerk ever present thereat. The little experience and knowledge I have of judiciall procedurs in generall, were it but from what may be seen in our cittie court, puts me above all doubt of the nullitie of that sentence, and I hop yo^r Lo: will be of the same mynd : therefore without farther, I shall but hint at the summarie heads of some reasons of the Provost of Edinb: precedencie before mentioned. And first, the Provost of Edinb: is in the possessione, and hes been, by vertue of his office and dignitie, in peaceable possession of that precedencie for tyme immemoriall, w^{ch} I suppose cannot but be knowne to yo^r Lo: w^{ch} is sufficient to defend his right, till it be reduced and taken away. Then if the sol right of the Provosts precedencie were in debait, he hath not onlie a power of jurisdiction in civil and privat interest of parties, but of governm^t, as to the policie and publict good of the metropolis and cheif cittie of the realme ; q[']by he hath that eminent trust comited to him, not onlie to procure the publict peace and welfair of that cittie, (as in the case of provosts of other brughs, above all w^{ch} it's eminent) but in it of his Majesties owne person, when he is in the nation of his Comis^r Grace in his absence, of his Parliaments, Convention of Estats, and Councils, and of his other high courts, civel and criminall, all which hes fixt their sets here, and cannot easilie be changed. Upon reasons of that nature it's well knowen to yo^r Lo: which I may have had some occasion in passing to read, what was the precellencie and precedencie of the præfect of Rome ; as also how, efter that example, and upon the lyke grounds, the lyke dignitie has been given be comune consent of all nations, as being of comune reason,

This are the words of K. 1. 6. his charter of the badges of honor to the Provost of Edinbr.

policie and expedience, to the cheif magistrats of the cheif cittie of each nation, amongst all the civel people of the knowen world, as induction might be made if it were necessarie ; but London may suffice for all, and it may suffice onlie to name London. Upon the same considerations the priviledge of metropolitan and comunis patria, is, by the law of our land, given to Edinbrugh, and by that expresse priviledge, testaments of those that dies out of the kingdome are confirmed in Edinb: and citations onlie privileged to be used there, against those that are gone out of the kingdom, as being the comune domicil of the wholl nation. And hereupon his Ma^{tie} King James the 6th of glorious memorie, hes, by his chartor under the great seal, given the Provost of Edinb: the badges of honor, of the scepter and sword, and ordained expreslie that they shall be caried before him within the priviledges of the towne, in the same maner they are caried before the Mayor of London ; whereby his Ma^{tie} in a way sutable to his royall concession, hes, by giveing the same badges expreslie for honors cause, confered upon him the same dignitie, which, how eminent it is, yo^r Lo: well knows ; and it is notor that both in our kingdome, and in all Europe besyd, as well civil as ecclesiastical dignities, are and have been confered by simbols both of late and of old ; yea, in all tymes. Lyke as how convenient it is for the honor of the nation that the Provost of Edinbrugh have a sutable dignitie here, both as to ourselfs at home, and to straingers from abroad, who either for their affairs, or for seeing the country, come and remaine most at Edinb:, it needs not to demonstrat. The princelie wisdom of said glorious Ma^{tie} saw it well,

and thereupon founds his concession, in the chartor above mentioned ; and adds to the forsaid badges, scarlet robs to be worne in lyke maner to the Mayor and Aldermen of London ; from all which it's evident that there is a dignitie adherent to the Provosts office always.

But it is above all question that he cannot but have the precedence when he is in the exercise of his office, which is so undenyable, that the Lords themselves in their aforesaid sentence, made that expresse exception touching their owne precedence, when he were in the exercise of his office ; whereupon I subsume that he is always in the exercise of it, for it consists not onlie in jurisdiction, but principallie in government, whereunto his jurisdiction is adjoynted to make it effectual ; and as to that, were he but walking in the streets, he is in the exercise thereof, seeing to the good order, peace and quyt of the towne. And therefore, that precedence by this necessarie reason, and the Lords owne acknowledgment, is allway dew to him from the liberties of his charge, which is the priviledges of the towne. I shall cease here, for fear, if I should sey more, y^e Lo: should think I had said unnecessarilie too much, and therefor shall onlie add that, which without sacriledge I cannot omit, that is, that whatever is said of our right and possession as to the Lords of the Session, yet when I come before his Majestie, the great authore of all our honors and happines of our comunewealth, I then for all my interest, as to his will, lay my hand on my mouthe, and submitts to his royall pleasure ; and onlie entreats, so soone as may be with his Majesties convenience it may be declared, that whatever it

be, I have that honor (which I esteeme above all other on earth) to obey cheirfullie as becometh a most loyall and faithfull subject to so high and mightie, and withall so gracious a prince; wherein I most humblie entreat and evin expect yo^r Lo: favour, as to,

My LORD,

Yo^r Los: most devoted and most humble servant,

A. RAMSAY.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDDERDAILL, LORD
SECRETARIE TO HIS MA^{TIE} FOR SCOTLAND.

Edinbrugh, 22d 8^{bre}, 1667.

MY MOST NOBLE AND DEAR LORD,

I could not pas by giving yo^r Lo: a lyne at my arrival, w^{ch} I did by the last Thursdays post, and albeit I neather was, nor am able sufficiently to expresse thankfulnes enough for yo^r Lo: manifold late favours, since what I would is beyond the reach of my power; however, my dear Lord, accept the acknowledgment of it, from a heart that means as much as the most puissant gratitude can act. My Lord, this day I had a meeting with all the ministrie of this place, and enquiryed of them what they knew of conventickles, or disaffected persons within their paroches, and all of them declared they knew not of any, nor did they know any that did not keep their

church. I entreated that if they could at any time discovre any, that they would not fail to acquaint me privatlie thereof, and they should be no further troubled nor made to appear in it ; and if I did not take course therewith, they should of consent, lay it at my door. I have likeways, as yo^r Lo: willed me at parting, taken such a course for searching this cittie for those excepted persons as had accessiō to the late rebellion, as I hop by the next I shall be able to give you a true account, whether any of them be harboured or not in this place. My Lord, I wish the west may keept quyet and seur ; the last indulgence is the most probable essey could be used for peace, if rightlie made use of, but I am not without fear that there may be bad comments put on it, upon the badest of designs ; for howbeit I am ane ennemie to conventickles, yet not clear that the gilt thereof doeth araise to the hight of the penaltie contained in the bond. Its my il fortune not to have seen S^r Ro^t Murray as yet ; he went to Fyffe that day I came to towne. I sent my Lord of Canterberies letter to the Bishop of S^t Andrews, who is earnest to meet with me at my house of Abbotshall ; but I intend to keep my usual way, in paying my respects to him at S^t Andrews, and that in the beginning of the nixt week, though my long absence can scarslie permit the same. And now, my Lord, grant me friedome, without which there can be no trust, or true friendship, which is humble to entreat yo^r Lo: to assist him handsomelie from under the cloude, that every way he may be the more usefull. I believe he has gotten the second sight through experience, and that not for nought ; but, my Lord, they say its onlie the witches that can lay on, and

not take off. My Lord, I am informed by some that knows much of Duck Hameltouns mynd, that he cannot be dissuaded from goeing to Court, and that its concluded by the cabal, that they are first to desyre yo^r Lo: to joyne in severall particulars, and, if denyed, to break off friendship. I thought it not the way to come at them by seeming too earnest, and therefore have come to the knowledge onlie of one as yet, which is, that Duck Hameltowne should be added to the Commission of the treasure, of pourpouse to give them the sol power ; for they are assured of my Lords Cochran and Ballengden, as they sey. The Ducke takes journey from this the morrow, and takes his own horses to Morpeth, and from thence takes post. My Lord, its hard they should be all absent, especially the session being so near ; they expect great assistance from Lambeth, but I am mistaken if they mistake not their measurs there. My Lord, I have said all this tyme doeth allow me, I wish I incure not blame for seying too much ; and if your Lo: will vouchave to give me a lyne or two at yo^r leasure, I shall steere my course accordinglie, and shall place it among those favours which hath made me yo^r Lo: desperat debtor, but,

My LORD,

Your Lo: most humble and

Most faithfull servant,

A. RAMSAY.

My dear Lord,—Suffer these to present my most humble service to yo^r Lo: most noble Ladie, the Earle of Tweddell, the Lord Yester, and my Ladie; the good news of her happie delyverie will be more welcome than all the news the Parlia^t can produce.

FOR THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARLE OF LAUDDERDAIL,
LORD SECRETARIE TO HIS MA^{TIE} FOR SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, 26th Nov^r, 1667.

MY MOST NOBLE AND DEAR LORD,

This fourtnight I have forborne to trouble yo^r Lo: with anything from my pen, there being litle or nothing new, and what there has been I know S^r Ro^t Murray hath not failed to give yo^r Lo: account off, and when anything either of publick or privat concerne occurs, worthie of yo^r notice, yo^r Lo: shall have them as they grow on the ground. I have at this tyme litle more to say then with the cowcow to sing one and the same note, that this place is quyet and secure; and I hope to be that happie gowk to sing, and hear it sunge, all my tyme. My dear Lord, it would be most acceptable to me to have the signat^r yo^r Lo: procured in the good townis favour past in my tyme, and I may aver from ane ingenuus heart, that the defering of that is the maine ingredient that hath made me subject myself so long to the yock and troublesome imployment I am in. My Lord Chancelour, the president of the Session, was clear to doe it; the stop

it mete with was from the advocat, which I believe a lyne from yo^r Lo: self would take of all scruple with him, and I shall humblie entreat yo^r Lo: to wreat a lyne with the Earle of Tweddell to that effect, but without yo^r Lo: wreat I doe expect nothing by any other meine. My Lord, I have noe more peper left than what will permit me to tell that I am, and ever will be,

My LORD, yo^r Lo: most humble,

And most faithfull serv^t,

A. RAMSAY.

FOR THE R^T HON^{BLE} THE EARLE OF LAUDDERDAIL, LORD
SECRETARIE TO HIS MA^{TIE} FOR SCOTLAND,

LONDON.

Edinb^r, 12 Dec^r, 1667.

MY MOST NOBLE AND DEAR LORD,

My frequencie with S^r Ro^t Murray maks me so unfrequent in my wreatting to yo^r Lo:. The Bishop of Glasgow parted from this yesterday; he was pleased to give me a visit that morning he parted; I found him full of jealousies and fears, and discontented to that hight, as made him expresse a willingnes to parte with his employment. I believe he thinks himself not right stated, things above not answering expectation. My L^d S^t Andrews seys he mete with him thereafter, and found him in that same mude; but after some reasoning, he had gained ground, and sent him away in a better

humour. My L^d S^t Andrews, to my apprehension, was never more contented then at present, and as it seems to me S^r Ro^t has taken him downe, and made him up againe; and now he has so fixt his gripe on yo^r Lo: as that I think it will not cassilie be gote lowsed. Our particular meeting of the Borrowes dissolved the last week, and have appoynted a gen^l meeting to be here the first of Marche, lykeways appointed a petition to be given in to the Commiss^{rs} of the treasurie against S^r Walter Seaton,¹ and that monople caried on be him of the salt, which petition in name of the wholl borrowes and their reasons, are to be present the morrow: and if yo^r Lo: have not seen them alreadie, they shall be sent yo^r Lo: by the nixt, wth the Com^{rs} answer.

My dear Lord, allow me to impart to you a particular wherein I am tenderlie concern'd; your Lo:, I know, needs not new argument to persuade you I am entirly at yo^r disposal; if it were not so, what I am now to sey would certainlie evince it. I doe not onlie intend yo^r Los: countenance shall be the measure of my satisfaction, but of my sonnes happienes, for the respect I bear yo^r Lo: most be entailed to him. There is in his view a considerable match, and from a ryse that is well grounded, he hath cause to beleive his ad-dresse will not be unsuccessful, but though the advantages of it be greater then he could rationallie pretend to, or I dreame of, I will not give way nor he attempt it, without yo^r Lo: approbation. The Earle of Middleton's daughter Jean, is the ladie; and if it stick not at hir, I beleive it will not at him, but whatever might accrue to my sonne by it, nothing will encourage the desigie so much as yo^r Los:

¹ Sir Walter Seton of Northbank, Bart.

allowing of it.¹ I presume you will not think any of us foolish in it, nor charge me with presumption for this fridome; which I thought fitter for me to use then to employe evin S^r Ro^t Murray to sey the thing for me, this way being most sutable to the noble friendship yo^r Lo: have been pleased to fix upon me, and the heartie love and service eternallie devoted to yo^r Lo: by, my LORD,

Yo^r Lo: most humble and most obedient servant,

A. RAMSAY.

¹ This match, which never took place, could not prove agreeable to the Duke, who had good reason to be Lord Middleton's enemy. The Lady is not mentioned in our Peerages.

Finis.

